Find what you want on the Web

the net

the net

JULY 2000 £2.50

JOBS ON THE NET
You could be just a click away from a new career

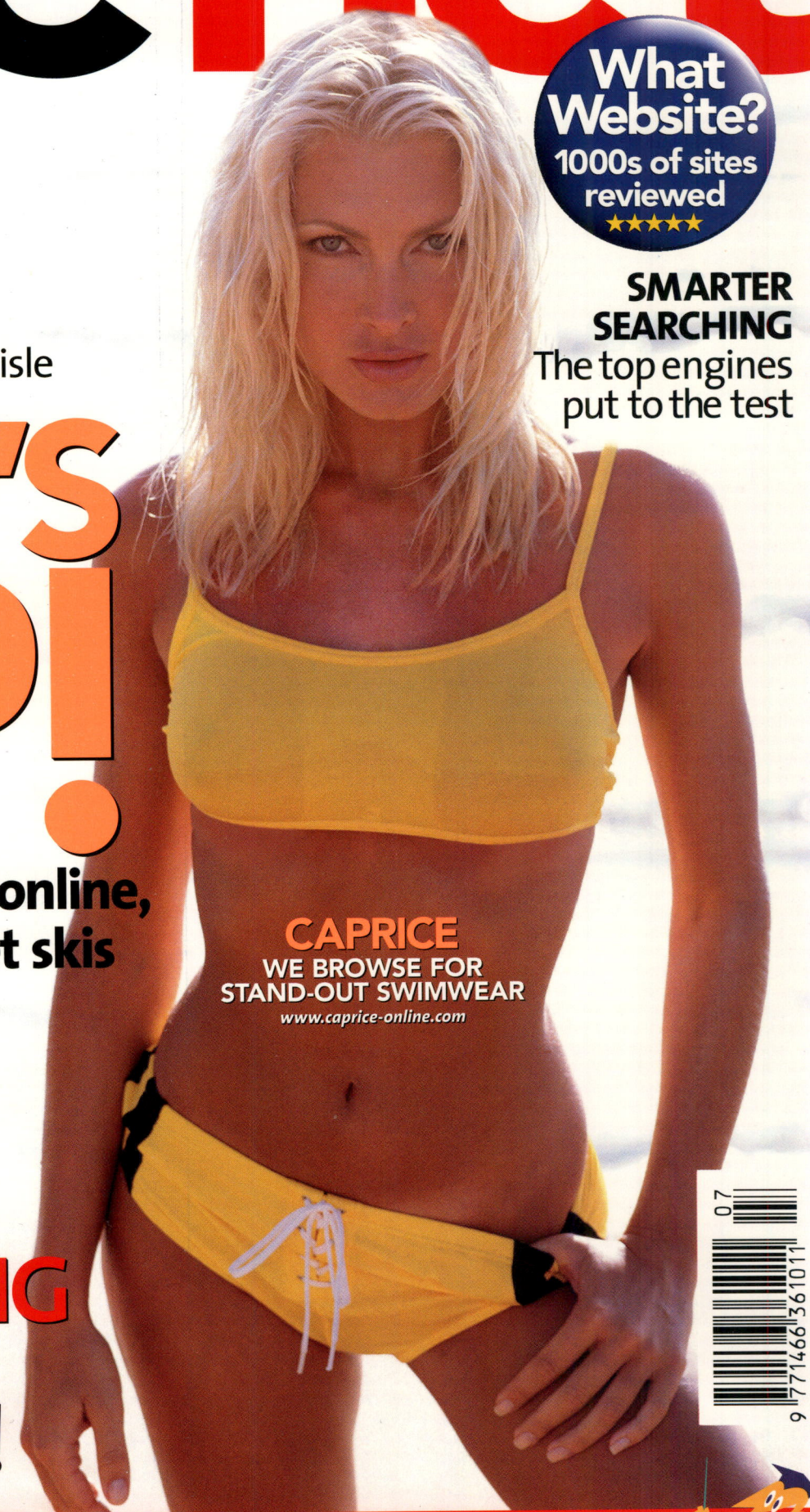
WEB WEDDINGS
Sites to speed you up the aisle

What Website?
1000s of sites reviewed
★★★★★

SMARTER SEARCHING
The top engines put to the test

SURF'S UP!

Buying beach gear online, from flip-flops to jet skis



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WE BROWSE FOR STAND-OUT SWIMWEAR
www.caprice-online.com

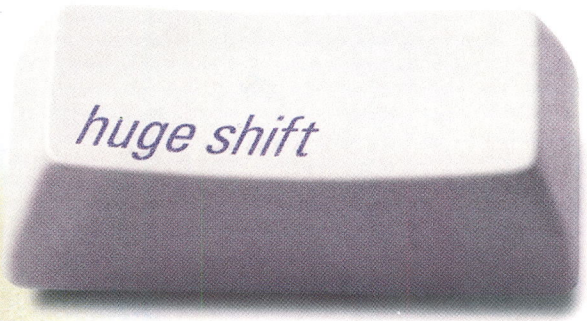
ANYONE FOR TENNIS?
Wimbledon action piped straight to your desktop

BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING INTERNET MAGAZINE!

9 771466 361011 07

stepbystep The pain-free guide to getting online

BT openworld
www.btopenworld.com



The Internet has just made a giant leap.

BTopenworld is a broadband Internet service that has been revolutionised by ADSL technology and is up to 10 times faster than a conventional modem.

From July there'll be no more dialling up ISPs, no more logging in and out because you're 'always on'. From just £39.99 per month, you'll always be connected to the Internet 24 hours a day, with complete access to BTopenworld's exciting content.

Visit www.btopenworld.com today and if you pre-order before the 30/06/00 the installation fee, worth up to £150, will be waived.* Then you'll see how BT never stops building for the net generation.

BT Stay in touch

*OFFER ONLY APPLIES TO THE SINGLE USER PRODUCT INSTALLATION FEE NORMALLY £150 INC. VAT FOR CONSUMERS, £150 EX. VAT FOR BUSINESSES. AVAILABILITY IS SUBJECT TO YOUR LOCAL EXCHANGE BEING UPGRADED AND SURVEY. MINIMUM 12 MONTH CONTRACT TERM.

the net

Flick before you click

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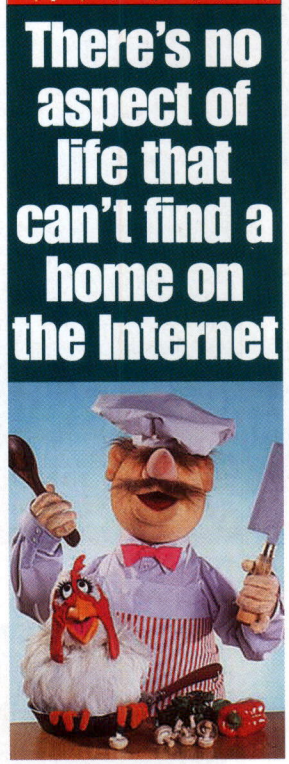


If you've ever taken a look at a big online recruitment site, you'd be forgiven for thinking that Britain was facing a disastrous shortfall of sales executives and PR team administrators – because that's what most vacancies seem to be for. Which isn't much use if you used to rivet cars together in Dagenham. In fact, as we mapped out our jobseeker feature (page 35) earlier this year, we had to drop plans to follow the progress of our prospective chef as there weren't any sites where he could look for kitchen vacancies.

However, just a month later, a catering site (***www.eggsbenefit.com***) duly sprang up. Doubtless in the works are similar sites for job-hungry landscape gardeners, garage fitters and hod carriers. It seems there's no aspect of life that can't find a home on the Net – and, thanks to cheap access at the likes of easyEverything (see page 14), you don't even need to own a computer to keep up-to-date with the latest job opportunities.

Of course, life's not all work – so we've slapped on the tanning butter to bring you the best sites for everything you'll ever need on a beach holiday. And with new technology like WAP phones (see page 144), you can even access the Internet while you're stretched out on a hot towel. Then again, maybe not...

Matthew Bingham, **Editor**
matthew.bingham@haynet.com

thenetcontents

Don't leave your home page without us

56 **EURO 2000** The teams, the sites, the La-Z-Boy... **PLUS** VIP tickets up for grabs

6 FACE OF THE FUTURE Help us find the next Naomi

144 **MOBILE INTERNET** Phones and palmtops

whatwebsite? Over 35 pages of great sites

74 **MOVIES** The latest multiplex fare, and our pick of historical epics

79 **MUSIC** CD selection; festival guide

84 **SPORT** It's June, so it must be Wimbledon. Plus: sports injuries

88 **CELEBRITIES** Hello, Norma Jean

90 **TRAVEL** Calling all 'vanners!

93 **FOOD & DRINK** Eating alfresco

95 **HEALTH** It's time for Yoga

98 **MONEY** Amass a virtual portfolio

100 **KIDS** And where they come from...

103 **LEARNING** Online typing tutors

105 **GAMES** Role-playing shenanigans

109 **PETS** They don't live forever, you know

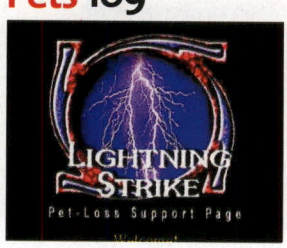
111 **HISTORY** The world of Neanderthals

112 **WEIRD** Scary stuff in the country

114 **NEED TO KNOW** The bookmarks no self-respecting Internet user should be caught without

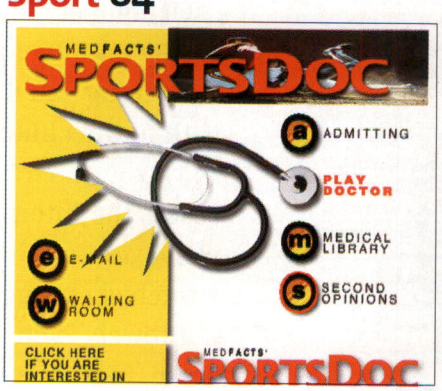
Travel 90

Pets 109

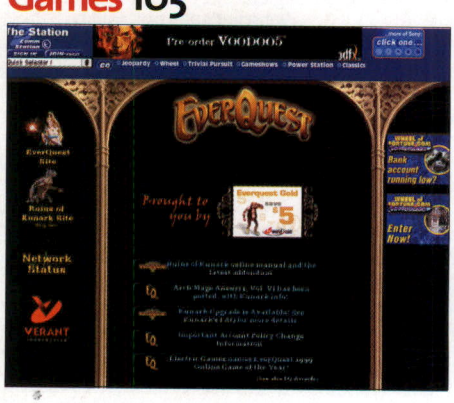


Food & Drink 93

Sport 84



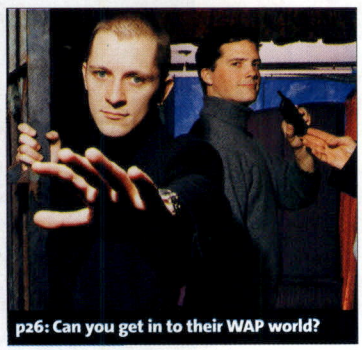
Games 105



thismonth

THE NET NOW 6
Search for a supermodel, the Webby Awards, and viruses explained. Plus, a fleeting encounter with Mr easyEverything

DAYS LIKE THESE 16
It's June, so that means those crazy French will be handing out the yellow jerseys



INBOX 21
ADSL: is it worth it? Mail Monkey spams the Queen Mum, and an oar-gripper gets all upset

WEB ICONS 24
Meet the man behind the world's greatest movie site

BRIGHT SPARKS 26
CRACKING IDEAS ONLINE
We know someone who wants to host your sports team's site; and young men in search of WAP

KITTED OUT 30
Four pages of brine-resistant hardware, beach sporting activity, Lycra-laced swimwear, surfin' CDs and young ladies in bikinis

RETAIL THERAPY 68
Our regular round-up of the best in online shopping. Goodies tracked down this month include a superb Scalextric car, hand-crafted spectacles and a barbie

BOOKMARKS 162
Judge Jules takes a break from the 'wheels of steel' to show us his top sites

30
TAKE ME TO THE BEACH
Lovely Caprice introduces our sand-proof kit bonanza!

thefeatures

GOOD MORNING, JOBSEEKERS! 35
If there's one thing the Internet's not short of, it's employment sites. But will our three guinea-pigs find work via the Web?

WEB WEDDINGS 42
Let us guide you through the maze of nuptial Web sites, all the way from choosing a ring to booking a honeymoon. Or, if necessary, finding a solicitor...

CALLING ALL BRAINBOXES! 48
Pub quizzes, IQ tests, personality profiles – there's hours of interactive fun in our guide to online quiz action

EURO 2000 56
As if gathering up the best news, statistics, betting and team sites for football's biggest championship this year wasn't enough, we've only gone and arranged for a fridgeful of booze and VIP tickets to be won!

stepbystep

Starting out > Learn more > Guru fodder

Your easy guide to all that's on the Internet

CHOOSING AN ISP Find the service provider for you with the help of our no-nonsense guide 140

MOBILE INTERNET SPECIAL Thanks to the power of WAP phones and palmtop computers, you need never be Net-less 144

SEARCH ENGINES SPECIAL We spend hours every month using the wretched things, but does anyone really know what they're doing? After memorising this guide, we'll have no excuse 148

EMAIL We show you how to mail more efficiently with power tips for home, work and mobile 152

NEWSGROUPS How to meet like-minded individuals and exchange messages with them at arm's length 155

CHAT Talk to teenagers pretending to be lingerie models from all over the world. Oh, you *are* a teenager pretending to be a lingerie model... 156

MODELLING

Can the Net find the face of 2000?

Look out Claudia and Christy, we can all be models now – maybe

Top modelling agency Premier Model Management, which represents the likes of Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell and Linda Evangelista, is pioneering the use of the Internet in its hunt for new talent – and, in doing so, is opening up the search to anyone.

Potential models should go to ***www.lycos.co.uk*** and follow the link through to Tripod UK and Ireland to the specially designed Model Pod. They can then complete a simple ratecard template and upload digital photographs of themselves. If successful, entrants stand to win a one-year modelling contract from Premier.

The face of 1900?

'We're probably looking for 15 to 30 great-looking girls,' says Premier-1's creative director, Chris Owen (Premier-1 is the creative and branding side of Premier). There will still be an 'offline' side to the search, which is more reliant on traditional media such as newspaper and magazines spreading the word, but Owen says that the Net is enabling Premier to extend its search right across Europe and America for the first time.

'Future Model Search' is one component of Premier's fashion community site, developed with the help of portal Lycos. 'We looked at our demographic – which is all about youth – and thought it would be good to do a community site looking at what's happening and what's cool,' says Owen.

'It's a mutually rewarding exercise and the youth market is also of great interest to us,' adds Lycos UK and Ireland marketing manager, Patrick Daniels.

Wannabe Naomis who can't provide digital pictures of themselves should take their snaps along to one of the 20 Internet Exchange Web cafés up and down the country. To find out where your nearest one is, have a look at ***www.internet-exchange.co.uk***. The cafés will provide scanning facilities, enabling would-be models to upload their pictures onto the site.

Premier's scouts will regularly view entries to the Model Pod and draw up a shortlist of finalists, who will compete in front of a panel of judges at the culmination of the contest in October.

Lycos UK and Ireland visitors will also be given the chance to vote for their favourite model, and the winner will also qualify for the final.

www.lycos.co.uk

Q&A: NAOMI CAMPBELL

Do you use email to keep in touch with people on the road?
It's a vital element of my life. I use it daily to contact friends and colleagues.

Does it bug you that someone can take your name as a domain name and launch a site about you on the Net?
I think that more and more celebrities are finding that bogus sites have been put up about them. But if you got upset over every unauthorised site, it would send you mad.

'Email is a vital part of my life. I use it daily'

Do you have a favourite out of the dozens of sites dedicated to you?
I didn't realise I had my own dedicated sites – I'm flattered. I'll definitely have a look at them.

What do you think of the way the fashion industry uses the Net?
It's great that new models can be found over the Internet – the Premier Future Model search is allowing girls from all over the world to enter online for the first time. It will be fascinating to see who they will find!

You were discovered in person, traipsing around the streets of Covent Garden. Do you think a digital photograph of a potential model posted on the Web site will do the job?
Yes, as photographers ask for Polaroids of girls anyway. It's important for the photographer to see the girl for what she is – not made-up, as that is not a true reflection of what the girl looks like.

WHAT'S HOT & WHAT'S NOT

IN & OUT

CYCLING
www.letour.com
FATHERS
www.holidays.net/father
STRAWBERRIES
www.wimbledon.org
DAVID DUCHOVNY
www.mgm.com/rtm

MUD
www.bigfestivals.com
STAYING INDOORS
www.naturenet.net
POSH PICNICS
www.hrr.co.uk
GERMANY
www.germany-tourism.de

KNOWHOW

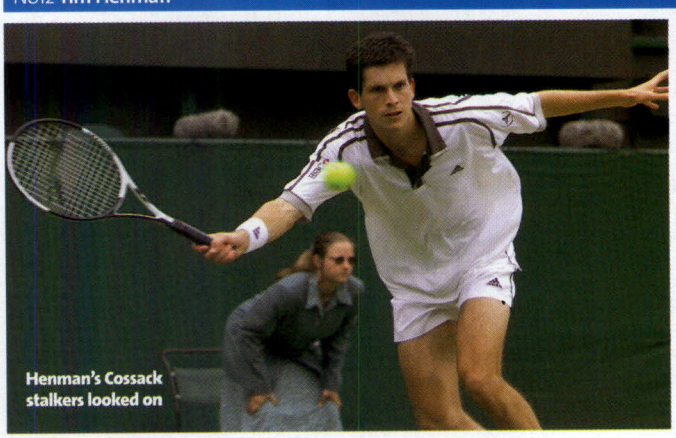
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT...?
No.12: viruses

So you're going to tell us what that ILOVEYOU thing was all about then?
We're going to try.
So how does a virus work, then?
It's a program or piece of code which installs itself on your computer without you knowing and disrupts the working of your machine. They are usually designed so that they are automatically distributed to other computers.

'I don't believe it! It's a love letter'

What do they do to my machine?
It depends on how nasty the virus is. A tame virus may just insert bizarre phrases into Word files. On the other hand, they can infect files or replicate so many times that they halt a system.
How are they passed round?
Really clever viruses can transmit themselves across networks, but the most common way to get a virus is to download an infected file from the Net or open an email attachment which has the virus.
How do I avoid them?
Get some anti-virus software installed on your machine. There are some very good programs to choose from. Also be sure to visit software Web sites regularly to check for updates. Anti-virus software companies come up with new fixes all the time so make sure you are covered. Also, never open a file unless you can vouch it is safe. That advice never seems to stop anyone from opening attachments, but you can't say you weren't warned.
How do they get round so quickly?
In the case of ILOVEYOU and several others, including the Melissa virus last year, as soon as the virus attachment is opened it automatically sends itself to your entire address book. Because so many company networks use Microsoft Outlook, virus writers often target this program. This means companies have to shut down servers and disinfect them before anyone can use them again.
Where can I find more information?
Try ***4virus.4anything.com***. It has links to the best antivirus software, security specialists and other virus information sites.

Celebrity bookmarks
No12 Tim Henman


Henman's Cossack stalkers looked on

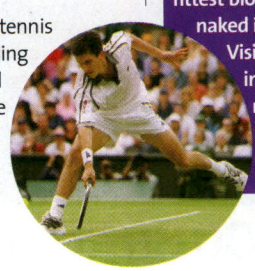
CLASSIC TENNIS
classictennis.kswiss.com/classictennis/index.html
This great Shockwave tennis game puts you in the position of having to win a tie-breaker to scoop the US Open. Timmy could certainly do with experiencing this kind of pressure and coming out on the winning side.

BLAME CANADA
www.sphell.hispeed.com/downloads/mp3/spmovie/04.mp3
It's the song from the *South Park* movie, but seeing as Timmy would easily be the best British player for aeons if it wasn't for the Canadian-born English-wannabe Rusedski, this could be his theme tune.

HOW TO WIN... WHEN YOU LOSE
robgehring.com
Apparently, this book is all about 'learning from past mistakes and growing into a better person with hope for a better tomorrow'. Or winning a few tournaments instead of losing in the final, perhaps.

LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION
www.lta.org.uk
Tim loves lawn tennis because it usually means he's at Wimbledon in front of his home crowd. He's also a lot better playing on grass than any other surface.

PETE'S PLACE
www.sampras.com
Arguably the greatest tennis player of all time. Reading his honours list should be enough to motivate Tim – and he might pick up a few tips to take that next step.

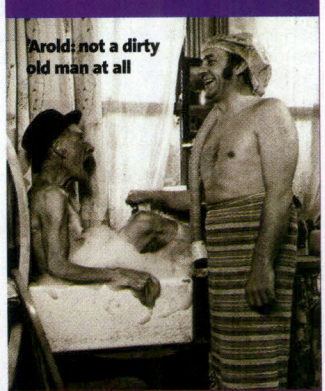


News Bytes
BITS IN BRIEF

Ken's a nice name, Tony

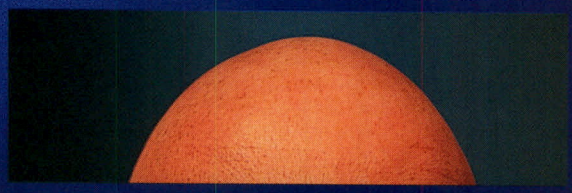
MPS FOOLED BY EMAIL SCAM
Labour MPs were duped into suggesting names for Tony Blair's baby when they received an email from tony-blair@prime-minister.co.uk. Web-based email company Another.com set up a fake email address for Mr Blair. The company then emailed 89 MPs and asked them to suggest names for the Blair's expected child – and ten of the MPs replied with their ideas.
www.another.com

SEE THE TOP OF THE WORLD ONLINE
A recent expedition to climb Mount Everest has supplied a 360-degree image of the view from the summit. The team used iPIX technology to create the view from the top of the world. Read the story of the expedition and see the images on iPIX's site.
www.iPIX-eu.com

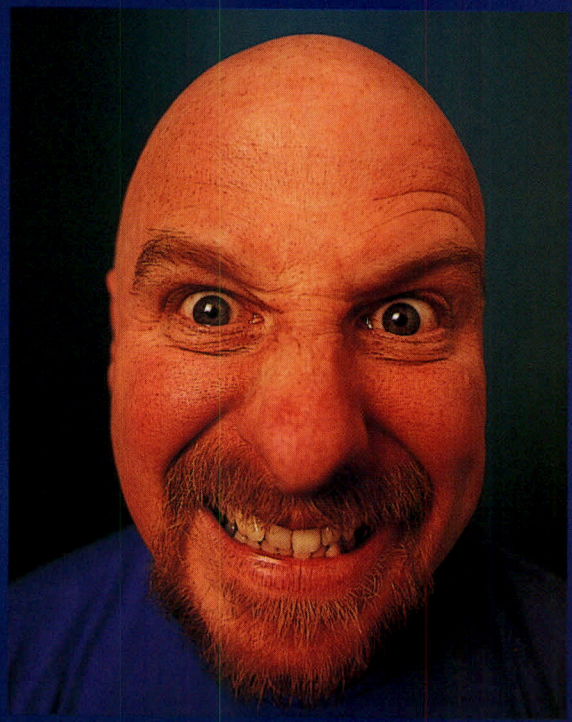

Arold: not a dirty old man at all

SEE YOUR BLOKE IN A BATH
Jif has launched a new Web site called Blokeinabath. It gives women the chance to enter their men in a competition to find the fittest bloke, who will then appear naked in the bath on the site. Visitors to the site will be invited to vote for their man of the week. One for the ladies, we think.
www.blokeinabath.com

PICTURES: EMPICS, KOBAL, PA, RETNA



In the time it takes you to download this



BT Highway could have downloaded all this.

BT Highway converts your existing phone line into two digital lines. It lets you download stuff from the net twice as fast as the average modem.

And with BT Together, conversion costs just £49.50.

BT are building for the net generation – so, what are you waiting for?

BT Stay in touch

Call 0800 800 807 or order online at bt.com/homehighway

BT TOGETHER HOME HIGHWAY PACKAGE £39.99 A MONTH INCLUDING RENTAL. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT REQUIRED. RESIDENTIAL LINES ONLY. SUBJECT TO SURVEY. MINIMUM CONTRACT TERMS APPLY.

E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial TM & © Universal Studios

Popular in their day, apparently

Net Charts

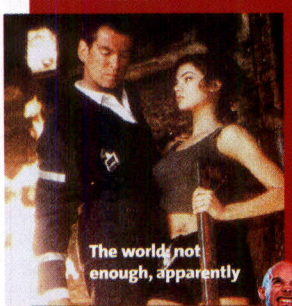
THE WEB'S FAVOURITES

ALBUMS OF ALL TIME

1 *Pet Sounds*
The Beach Boys
2 *Revolver*
The Beatles
3 *Never Mind the Bollocks*
The Sex Pistols
4 *What's Going On*
Marvin Gaye
5 *The Stone Roses*
The Stone Roses
www.nme.com

TOP 5 DVDS

1 *The World Is Not Enough*
2 *Pioneer Karaoke Party Pack*
3 *The Green Mile*
4 *Being John Malkovich*
5 *James Bond Giftset Vol 2*
uk.imdb.com



The world not enough, apparently

TOP 5 MOST BORING WEB SITES:

1 Pylon of the Month
www.pylonofthemonth.com
2 Opening and Closing Doors and Drawers
home.earthlink.net/~fluxusmidwest/doorknobs
3 Dull Men
www.dullmen.com
4 Purple
www.purple.com
5 How to keep an idiot busy for hours
www-csag.cs.uiuc.edu/individual/pakin/idiot/chapter1.html altodigital.com

TOP 5 ALBUMS

1 *Play*
Moby
2 *Reload*
Tom Jones and Friends
3 *Supernatural*
Santana
4 *The Heat*
Toni Braxton
5 *Westlife*
Westlife
www.audiostreet.co.uk

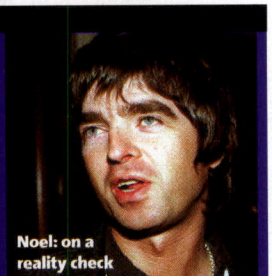
Top tip: don't ever try lifting yourself...

SPOKEN WORD

LOOK WHO'S TALKING...

Top quotes from celebrity Net chats

'I just think that real songs written by real musicians played by real bands is just not in vogue at the moment.'
NOEL GALLAGHER SHRUGS OFF POP'S DOMINANCE OF THE MUSIC CHARTS ON ***www.msn.co.uk***

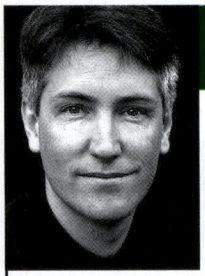


Noel: on a reality check

Bruises: more blue than black

'It'd be something nice to do – you'd have to pose next to me, though!'
CRAIG DAVID SAYS HE WOULD BE QUITE WILLING TO POSE NAKED FOR A WOMAN'S MAG IF THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE RIGHT AT ***www.chat.beeb.com***

'It was great. The first time I beat up a police officer and didn't get a fine for it! I actually got paid for it.'
JANE COUCH TALKING ABOUT HER FIRST FIGHT ON ***www.virgin.net***



JON CASIMIR

WORLD SURFING CHAMPION

What goes around shouldn't come around...

'Hi, my name is Amy Bruce. I am seven years old, and I have lung cancer from second-hand smoke. I also have a large tumor in my brain, from repeated beatings. The doctors say I will die soon if this isn't fixed, and my family can't pay the bills.

'The Make A Wish Foundation has agreed to donate 7 cents for every name on this list. For those of you who send this along, I thank you so much, but for those who don't send it, what goes around comes around...'

OK, pay attention folks. Most of the time I use this column to waffle about whatever embarrassing interest I've developed lately, but this month I'm going to recommend something useful.

Barely a day seems to go by now without the arrival of an email solicitation like the one above: a heartbreaking story, a chain letter, a virus alert... In most of these cases, if you look at the email header you discover that one of your friends has passed it on to everyone on his or her email list.

These emails are, of course, nearly always hoaxes, but despite the past thousand years of supposed enlightenment, we buy into them. We're a superstitious bunch and we find it hard to resist their curses or promises of magic.

Some of the most hardened cynics among my friends have fallen for them. Perhaps it's because many of them appear to have legitimate origins, carefully including names of well-known organisations involved, often with contact people and numbers.

We're a superstitious bunch and find it hard to resist a promise

Call and the ruse is revealed, but most of us don't. We just deep-breathe through our insta-panic and hit the Forward button.

The problem with these email shenanigans is not just that they clog the system. They erode our trust. We get so used to being duped by virus hoaxes or pleas for help that we run the risk of being in 'cry wolf' mode when it comes to the real thing. And worse, when a non-hoax comes along, we're unlikely to believe it. I've had a load of emails from people asking if the (seemingly too-good-to-be-true) Hunger Site (***www.thehungersite.com***) can be believed.

So, next time you get one of these emails, before you send it on check out the Computer Virus Myths page (***kumite.com/myths***) or the Zeitgeist section of Urban Legends Archive (***www.urbanlegends.com***).

These two wonderful sites keep meticulous, up-to-date libraries of hoax info, recording this folkloric side of Net history for fun and posterity. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, you'll find a quick-and-easy debunking. Go on, spare us all some grief.

PICTURES: RETNA, KOBAL COLLECTION, PA

www.thename.co.uk
thename

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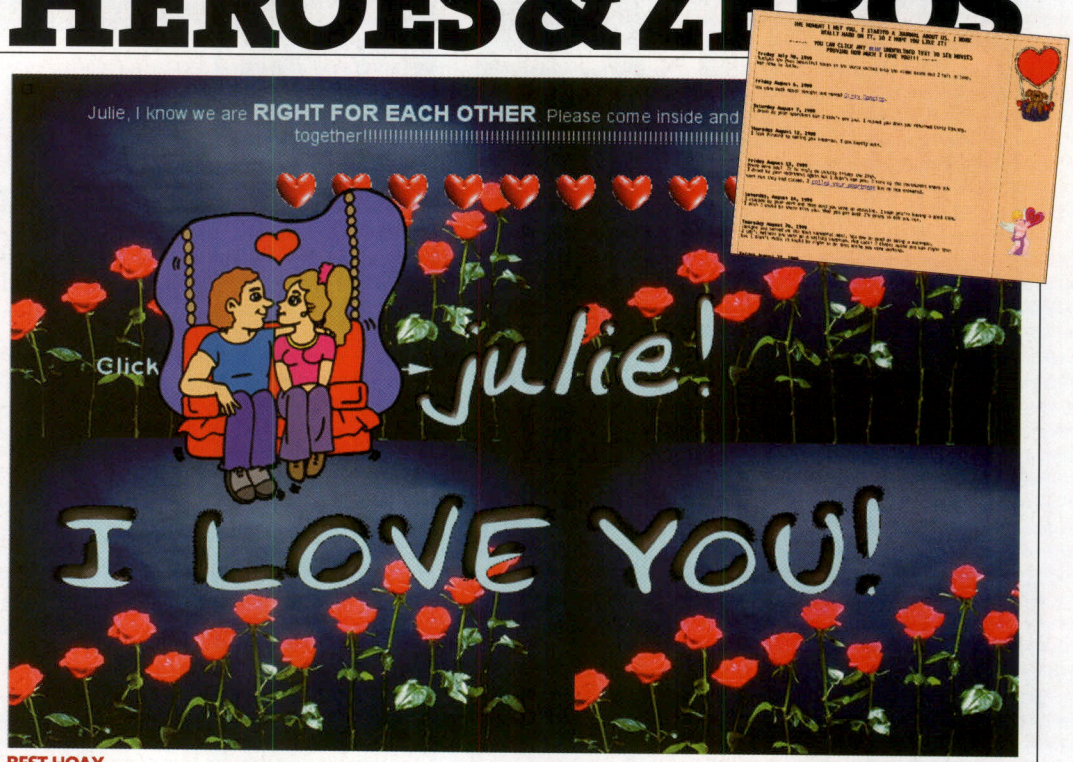
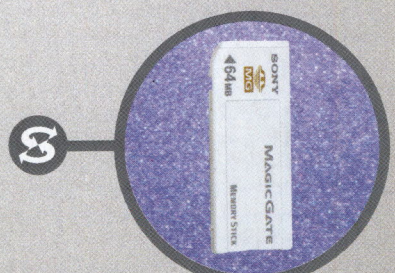
THE BEST, THE WORST AND THE DAFTEST STUFF ON THE WEB

HEROES & ZEROS


Julie, I know we are RIGHT FOR EACH OTHER Please come inside and
together!!!

It's a song, it's a photograph, it's a video clip, it's a book.

www.gocreate.sony.co.uk

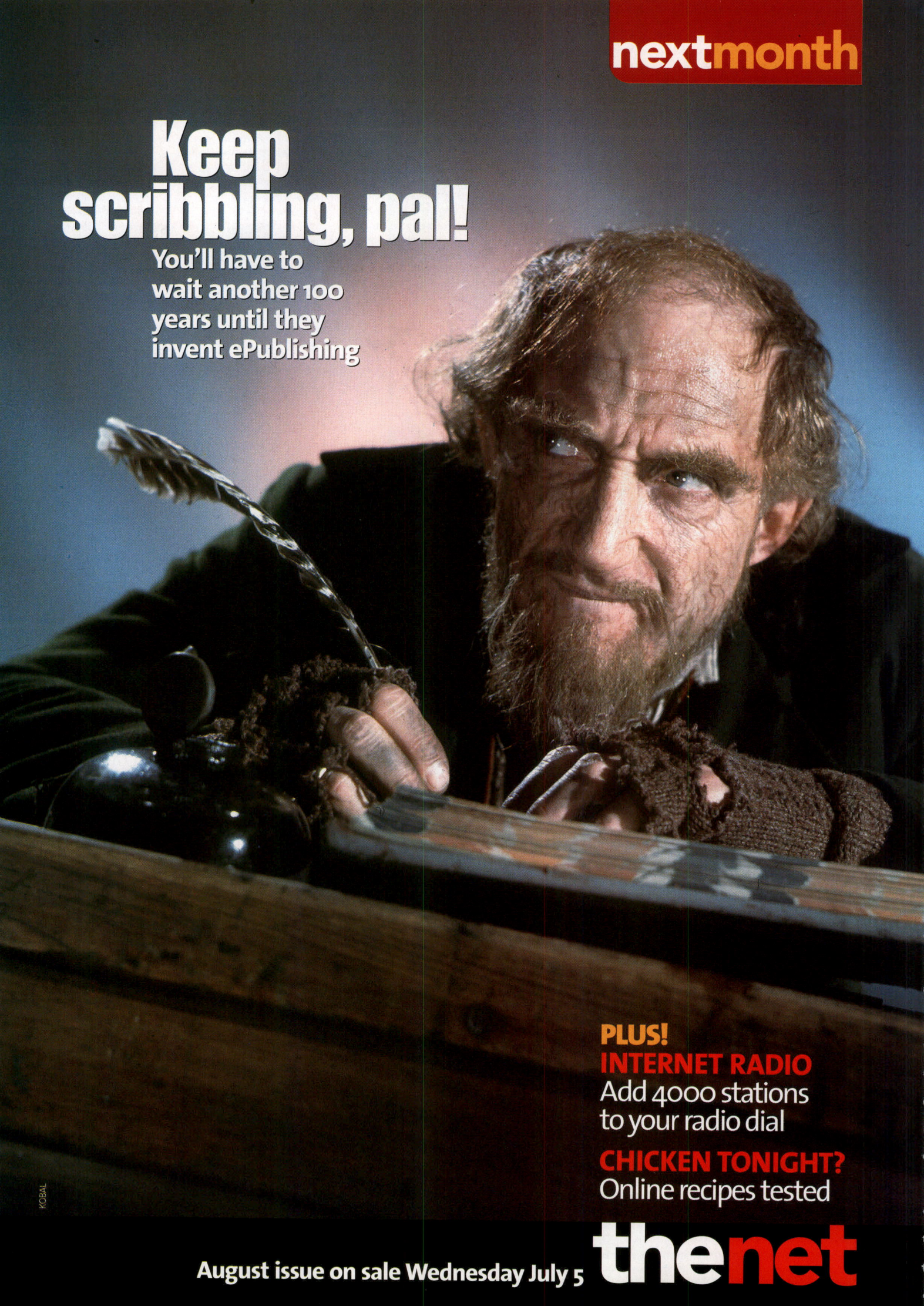


The Sony MagicGate Memory Stick is no bigger than a strip of chewing gum, but it has the storage capacity of 44 floppy discs (64 Mb). And it goes places. It connects with our Sony Cyber-shot digital still camera, Digital Handycam camcorder, Memory Stick IC Voice Recorder, Memory Stick Walkman and Sony VAIO notebooks. It allows you not only to digitally store still images, moving images, music, texts and PC files, but transfer and e-mail them as well. You see, when you connect with Sony, you connect with a whole new world.

go create

SONY

Customer information centre 0990 111999 Additional software may be required. Sony, Memory Stick, Handycam, VAIO, MagicGate and Walkman are trademarks of the Sony Corporation, Japan.


nextmonth
Keep scribbling, pal!
You'll have to wait another 100 years until they invent ePublishing
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AWARDS

And I'd like to thank...

The winners of this year's prestigious Webby Awards have been announced

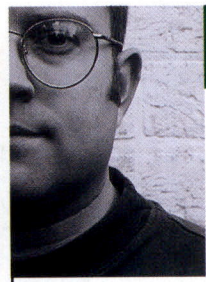
TWO OF BRITAIN'S BIGGEST hopes failed to take the ultimate prize at the recent Webby Awards in the US, the online equivalent of the Oscars. Designer Paul Smith, however, did walk off with the Best Fashion Site award.

The Internet Movie Database (***www.imdb.com***) had won the Film award for the last three years, but this time lost out to Atom Films. It did, however, take the People's Choice award, voted for by visitors to the Webby Awards site at ***www.webbyawards.com***.

Radio 1 (***www.bbc.co.uk/radio1***) also missed out on the official Radio Webby to Lost and Found Sound, but took a People's Choice award.

WEBBY WINNERS

ACTIVISM
Adbusters
www.adbusters.org
ARTS
Web Stalker
www.backspace.org/iod/iod4Winupdates.html
BROADBAND
Video Farm
www.videofarm.com
COMMERCE
BabyCenter
www.babycenter.com
COMMUNITY
Café Utne
cafe.utne.com/cafe
EDUCATION
Merriam-Websters Word Central
www.wordcentral.com
FASHION
Paul Smith
www.paulsmith.co.uk
FILM
Atom Films
www.atomfilms.com
FINANCE
Gomez.com
www.gomez.com
GAMES
GameSpy Industries
www.gamespy.com
HEALTH
Thrive Online
thriveonline.com
NEWS
Jim Romenesko's MediaNews
www.medianews.org
PERSONAL
Cocky Bastard
www.cockybastard.com
POLITICS AND LAW
Politics.com
www.politics.com
PRINT & ZINES
Nerve
www.nerve.com
RADIO
Lost and Found Sound
www.lostandfoundsound.com
SCIENCE
The Cave of Lascaux
www.culture.fr/culture/arcnat/lascaux/en
SERVICE
Evite
www.evite.com
SPORTS
ESPN
www.espn.com
TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT
Google
www.google.com
TRAVEL
Outside Online
www.outsidemag.com
TV
MSNBC
www.msnbc.com
WEIRD
Stile Project
www.stileproject.com
For full details, go to ***www.webbyawards.com***

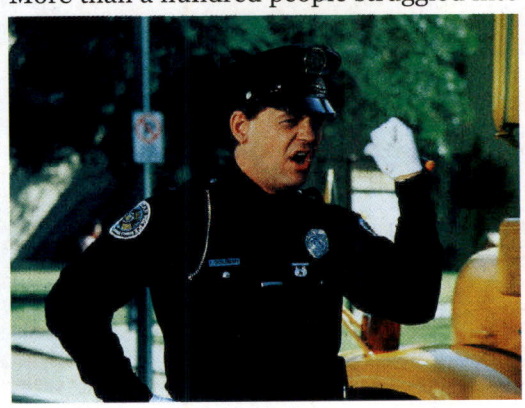


TIM RICHARDSON
WEB WATCHER

To control or not control? That is the question

It's difficult to be flippant about all those big ideas that affect the Internet (you know, free speech, civil rights, privacy) but I'll give it a go all the same. Sure, they're all Major Issues. After all, that's where the Web's roots lie. Those groovy cyberhippies didn't turn a military-based communications network into what it is today for nothing, did they? The Net gives ordinary people a voice, a chance to air opinions, their fears, their hopes...

I recently sat through an academic autopsy of the whole question of cyber rights versus state intervention at the Oxford Union. Please note, the irony was not lost on me. More than a hundred people struggled into Oxford city



Part of me says give the cops the power to catch the perverts

centre to meet in a lofty, wooden-clad room to discuss the Internet. Surely we should have been doing this virtually, in some neat chat room or using video-conferencing technology, or instant messaging or something?

Technology aside, it was an uncomfortable experience. It wasn't just watching both sides dissecting each other's argument – the wooden benches in that debating chamber were damned uncomfortable and the debate lasted all day.

Those in favour of regulation said that new powers, laws, rules (whatever) need to be introduced to protect the liberty of everyday users. As Netizens, we need to be protected from criminals, sex pests and scamsters, and the police need additional powers to catch them, they argued.

Cyber rights advocates said they wanted a more hands-off approach. They felt that the existing powers applicable to you and me in the 'real world' were more than adequate to combat cybercrime. They said that the Net should not be made a scapegoat for the introduction of heavy-handed legislation.

So what's the answer? I don't know. Part of me says leave the Net well alone; it's best untouched. The other says give the cops the power they need to catch the perverts who use the Net to abuse young children – whatever the cost.

Truth is, the only thing I can be sure about is if they hold another debate at the Oxford Union next year on cyber issues, I must remember to take a cushion.

CYBERCAFÉS

Surfing without croissants

There's a new breed of cybercafé in town. We look behind the scenes of the easyEverything revolution

EasyEverything's Tottenham Court Road store, one of five in London, takes you by surprise. You easily spot its unmistakeable orange livery and the queue at its bustling entrance. Inside, there are a couple of dozen terminals. Then you notice the stairs...

500 screens blink at you as they stretch into the distance. It's like a giant church

To walk up those steps onto the main floor is to enter another world. Here, in all directions, 500 screens blink as they stretch into the distance. The rows of wooden pews make it look like a huge church – and it's as quiet as one, except for the trill of mobile phones and the click of keyboards.

Picking his way through the engrossed surfers is store manager Mark Airey. A cheery soul whose demeanour suits both his job and his orange easyEverything shirt, he's responsible for the 5000 people who visit the Tottenham Court Road store every day.

'We're hitting 75 percent full at peak times,' he explains. The afternoon is busiest, but easyEverything is a 24-hour concern – a recent campaign offering six hours' surfing from midnight to 6am for a quid has targeted Net nighthawks. Are Mark and his orange army getting rushed off their feet till all hours?

'Yeah, we are,' grins Mark with a mixture of pride and weariness. 'Last Saturday we hit 50 percent full at 4am. There are 518 terminals here, so that's over 250 people surfing at four in the morning.'

Despite the low price put on surfing, visitors remain acutely aware of the cost; except overnight, your £1 gets you a period of time based on a sliding scale depending on how full the store is. 'In the afternoon, when it'll be a pound for half an hour or an hour, people will look at emails and go. At night people download games, or they'll sit there with a mike on and chat for hours.'

While he's doing his rounds on the floor, does Mark recognise the regulars? 'Oh yeah. You get to know people when you help them out and they learn your name.' Unsurprising, given that it's written in large letters on his orange top...

Looking around the store reveals a pleasing cross-section of the population. There are young tykes having a quick surf as a break from the city. But there are also more than a few of the older generation, 'silver surfers' emailing friends and relatives. And there are one or two sat among papers looking very businesslike. Mark reveals that the store is used by some as an office. 'There are one or two who base themselves here – you see people print out loads of stuff. There's more we could do to help them on that score, as new software is only just being phased in. At the moment we only offer Microsoft Works.'

To help the surfer maintain concentration, easyEverything stores are soon to be replete with coffee shops. But isn't this going to increase the chances of tragic drink/keyboard interface problems?

'You get a surprisingly small amount of that happening,' says Mark. 'There's obviously litter, but people tend to be sensible.'

However, as *the net* ambles around the store later on, a bemused assistant is found replacing a mouse from which the ball has been stolen. 'People will try to steal anything that isn't nailed down,' he reveals. 'Mice, individual keys off the keyboard. We've even had someone try to lever the screen out. It's amazing.'

One assistant replaces a mouse ball. He's even had someone try and lever out a screen

Even so, Mark defends the atmosphere in the store. 'Some people are silly, but the vast majority aren't. Even at night, you get the odd person under the influence, but mostly it's sensible.'

Suddenly there's a minor commotion as a crowd of half a dozen people sweep importantly up the stairs. In the middle is Stelios Haji-Iannou, overlord of easyJet, easyEverything, easyRentacar... in fact, an entire easyEmpire. And it's a growing empire – new easyEverything stores have recently opened in Edinburgh, Amsterdam and Rotterdam; Barcelona opens in June; and before the end of the year there should be 20 stores in Europe as well as one in New York's Times Square.

Mark reveals that the boss is no stranger to the shopfloor. 'He's here a lot. When we first started he was very hands-on; it's less so now, but he still comes in regularly. I'll see him at least once a week, and that's only when I'm on shift – he's probably here more.'

One thing about Stelios is that, unlike his entire staff, he isn't swathed in orange. Does Mark wear bright orange at home? The question nearly makes him choke on his coffee.

'Definitely not!' he laughs. 'Funnily enough, I did buy an orange shirt about a month before I got the job here. I haven't worn it since.'

Store manager Mark Airey: 'We have 250 people surfing at 4am'

WORDS: GARY PARKINSON; PICTURES: HUGO DIXON

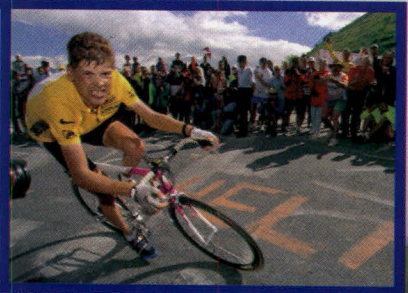
dayslikethese

YOUR MONTH ON THE WEB

1 SAT Give us a brake

Tour de France, France, 1-23 July

It's suffered drug scandals over the past couple of years, but it's still one of the toughest sporting events on the calendar. Winding down and up the dales and cloud-scraping mountains of our Gallic neighbours, the world's most elite athletes will compete over the 21 gruelling stages, covering a total distance of 3,630 km in three weeks, all for a yellow jersey. Oh, and 2.2 million French Francs. Madness, utter madness... ***www.letour.com***



And you thought caravans disrupted bank holiday traffic...

DEAR DIARY

JUNE 7 WEDNESDAY — Birthday: Liam Neeson, 48
www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Set/1556/index.html

8 THUR — Birthday: Bonnie Tyler, 49
mir.glas.apc.org/~evm/bonnie
World's largest flower bloomed in 1937
www.flowerweb.com

9 FRI — *Return To Me* released
www.mgm.com/rtm
Birthday: Johnny Depp, 37
johnnydeppfan.com

10 SAT — Birthday: Liz Hurley, 35
www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Bungalow/1541/index.html

11 SUN — Stella Artois Grass Court Championships begin
www.sportsinteractive.net
Birthday: Jackie Stewart, 61
www.jaguar-racing.com

17 SAT — Le Mans 24-hour race
www.le-mans.co.uk
Birthday: Venus Williams, 20
www.venus-williams.net

18 SUN — Father's Day
www.holidays.net/father
Birthday: Paul McCartney, 58
www.macca-l.net

19 MON — Garfield first appeared in 1978
www.garfield.com
Birthday: Paula Abdul, 38
www.undermyspell.com

20 TUES — Royal Ascot begins
www.britishracingnews.com
Birthday: Lionel Richie, 51
www.lionelrichie.com

21 WED — Summer solstice
www.celestia.com/SRP/MJ96/SummerSolstice.html
Birthday: Ray Davies, 56
www.raydavies.com

27 TUE — Muhammed Ali announced his retirement in 1979 ***www.webgalleria.com***

28 WED — Henley Royal Regatta
www.hrr.co.uk
Birthday: Kathy Bates, 52
www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Studio/4939/kathy_bates.html

29 THUR — Shakespeare's Globe Theatre burnt down in 1613
www.shakespeares-globe.org
Birthday: Oprah Winfrey, 46
www.oprah.com

30 FRI — Birthday: Kate Bush, 42
www.innerlight.demon.co.uk/kate
Birthday: Mike Tyson, 34
www.boxing-monthly.co.uk

JULY 1 SATURDAY — Birthday: Liv Tyler, 23
www.liv-tyler.org

WORDS: SARAH WAKELY; PICTURES: RETNA, EMPICS

June-July

The Irish: any excuse for a party

10 SAT Rocking!

Fleadh Festival, Finsbury Park, London, 10 June

It's not as high-profile as its Glastonbury cousin, but the Fleadh festival, held in the greenry of London's Finsbury Park, is the capital's biggest outdoor event. Confirmed so far for this, the 11th year, are the Corrs, the Undertones, Kirsty MacColl, and, erm, Lonnie Donegan. And before you ask: we don't know how to pronounce it either. ***www.virtual-festivals.com***

10 SAT It's just a game...

Euro 2000 Tournament, Belgium and Holland, 10 June-2 July

Look out: football mania is set to sweep the continent as the 16 top European sides battle for the coveted title of European Champions. Co-hosted by Belgium and Holland, the Dutch are the favourites to win the event – after all, the do have top-class players such as Arsenal striker Dennis Bergkamp, *and* the home advantage. The tournament kicks off on 10 June when Belgium take on Sweden in Brussels, and culminates with the final in Rotterdam on 2 July, when England will lift the trophy. Well, you can but dream. ***www.euro2000.org***

Let's face it, they ain't gonna win

12 MON Beatles awarded their MBEs in 1965 ***www.getback.org***

Anne Frank born in 1929 ***www.annefrank.com***

13 TUES Birthday: Tim Allen, 47 ***www.morepower.com/tim.html***

WB Yeats born in 1865 ***www.killdevilhill.com/yeatschat/wwwboard.html***

14 WED Birthday: Boy George, 39 ***www.boy.george.net***

15 THUR Cricket First Test: England v West Indies ***www.barmy-army.com***

Birthday: Courteney Cox, 36 ***www.courteneycox.net***

16 FRI *For the Love of the Game* released ***www.universalpictures.com/forloveofthegame***

Stan Laurel born in 1890 ***www.laurel-and-hardy.com***

22 THUR Birthday: Meryl Streep, 51 ***www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Hills/2844/meryl.htm***

Birthday: Cyndi Lauper, 47 ***www.cyndilauper.com***

23 FRI Glastonbury Festival begins ***www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk***

The Next Best Thing released ***www.nextbestthingmovie.com***

24 SAT Indian Film Awards ***www.allindia.com/arts/cinema.htm***

Mozart died in 1791 ***mozart.composers.net***

25 SUN Birthday: George Michael, 37 ***www.planetgeorge.org***

26 MON Wimbledon begins ***www.wimbledon.org***

Birthday: Chris O'Donnell, 30 ***www.rainbow.ch/chribru/chris/odonnell.htm***

2 SUN French Grand Prix ***www.itv-f1.com***

Birthday: Jerry Hall, 44 ***us.imdb.com/Name?Hall,+Jerry***

3 Birthday: Tom Cruise, 38 ***www.thezone.pair.com/cruise***

Birthday: Shane Lynch, 24 ***www.boyzone.co.uk***

4 TUES Hampton Court Palace Flower Show ***www.gardening-uk.com***

American Independence Day ***www.holidays.net/independence***

5 WED The bikini makes its debut in 1946 ***www.bikini.com***

Birthday: Huey Lewis, 49 ***www.hln.org***

6 THUR Richard III crowned in 1483 ***www.richardiii.com***

Birthday: Sly Stallone, 54 ***www.geocities.com/austin6433***

[www.topukwebsites.com]

computers & gadgets

capital.uk.com

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carphonewarehouse.com

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21store.com

21store.com has forged its position as a leading e-tailer of digital products. We provide brands like JVC, Casio, Garmin, Fuji and many more, at competitive prices and with unsurpassed customer support. We know digital.

house & home

qvcuk.com

The online department store. Over 8,000 products in fashion, jewellery, home and garden, electrical, health and beauty and collectables and gifts, plus **special offers** and information about its parent, QVC The Shopping Channel.

topwebsite

maelstrom.co.uk

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Visit our exclusive page for topuk readers - www.maelstrom.co.uk/topuk - with great competitions and discounts including the new micro scooter/drinking mans shot glass chess set and many more top products.

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health & fashion

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thinknatural.com

Healthy bodies, relaxed bodies, invigorated bodies: there's something for everybody at ThinkNatural.com. Register now to qualify for a our **two-for-the-price-of-one** discount on popular products including evening primrose oil and garlic.

designerdiscount.co.uk

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inbox

Dear thenet,

Well, ADSL is finally here, but are we any better off? Do we sign up now and tie ourselves to contracts at £40+ a month? Do we wait a few months and hope the price will come down and stick with a free connection offer, albeit at a paltry 56k? Or do we wait until BT's local network unravels itself – and when will that be, I ask – will it be December, or June 2001? The choice is bewildering, but what's it going to be like in a few months' time?

Does anyone out there know the answers? If they do I'd love to hear from them as my aspirins are running out fast!

Jason Lallman
By email

If we had a pound for every time we'd been asked that question we'd have enough to pay for an ADSL connection. It's really a personal decision. Are you in a hurry to get fast Net access? Can you afford the expense? It's a bit like buying a computer – you know that what you buy today will be eclipsed tomorrow, but sooner or later you've got to take the plunge.

READER'S LETTER OF THE MONTH

Dear thenet,

Well, I thought a magazine such as yours would gain a little more knowledge about a sport and its following before saying, 'they're rich and have plenty of spare time, so why do they do such rubbish sports?' ('Toff sports', April 2000).

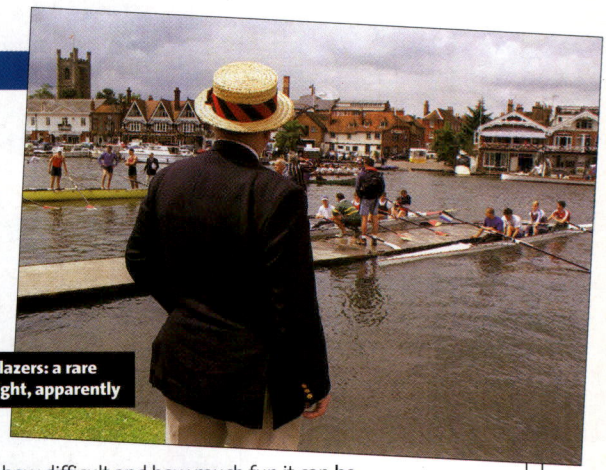
OK, so at Henley there are a huge amount of corporate entertainment tents, which does annoy a huge proportion of the oarsmen themselves. However, if you were to witness a real rowing situation, i.e. a normal club situation, I'm sure you would see a huge difference: no blazers, boaters or hoity-toity accents (not many anyway).

Also, how can you comment on a sport that you obviously haven't tried? Maybe you should and see just how difficult and how much fun it can be.

Now I have that off my chest, thanks for an otherwise excellent Web site.

Bill Carter
By email

We have caused a few ripples – the last time we got letters like this it was for taking the mickey out of the Welsh. You're right: we haven't tried the sport, but that's because it looks like hard work. Fortunately you've got Steve Redgrave to give rowing some street-cred, but you must learn to laugh at yourselves more...



Blazers: a rare sight, apparently

PICTURE: PA

Dear thenet,

I recently bought a Nokia 7110 WAP phone connected to Vodafone, and was keen to retrieve and send email.

To cut a long story short, I spent a ridiculous amount of time connected to technical support at Freeserve and Vodafone trying to get the phone set up. Eventually I was told that Freeserve can only provide email to WAP phones connected to BT Cellnet. I contacted Vodafone to be told that there are several ISPs that work with them, but that they cannot help me at present. It appears the only alternative is to switch to Cellnet.

I am astonished to think that, given WAP phones' intended use, the shop that sold it to me was unaware of the situation I was going to encounter. My advice to others is to purchase carefully, and advise that asking, 'to which service must I connect in order to be able to access my email via the phone?' is clearly not specific enough.

Tony Akiwumi
By email

There's no argument about the potential of WAP-enabled phones but the technology is still very much in its infancy, which may lead to confusion on behalf of consumers. You're right to advise people to be careful. If you're going to get a phone, make sure you can get connected.

Dear thenet,

Help! I want to get a Web-based email address for when I go on an extended holiday. However, when I come back I want to have any mail sent to that address automatically forwarded to my ISP email address. A lot of Web-based services don't seem to allow me to forward my email. Do you know any that do?

Robert Sumpter
By email

*Your best bet is probably Bigfoot (**www.bigfoot.com**). It doesn't matter how often you swap your email address, because all you have to do is inform Bigfoot and it forwards your mail – there's no need to even tell anyone you've changed address.*

MAIL MONKEY Bring out the chimp

From: mailmonkey@chimp.co.uk
Sent: Thursday May 25, 2000
To: queen.mother@buckhouse.co.uk
Subject: Your good health

Dear Ma'am,

Remember me? I haven't been allowed near you since that Royal Variety Performance when Keith Harris' monkey puppet Cuddles tried to steal your teeth, and you banned primates from the Palace. Somehow Philip and Charles managed to slip through, but that's your decision, I suppose. I have to admit I've been known to get over-excited when I get near a royal box, but legal issues prevent me from elaborating.

Anyway, that was when you were a mere slip of a lass (about your mid-80s, I think) and now you're approaching the big 100. Will Lizzie send you a telegram, or do you think she'll just pop a birthday card under your door? I think you'll probably get a card from Duncan Fletcher. I believe he runs the England cricket team, and they'd give anything for someone who can make it to a century. It's just a pity the BBC don't have the rights to test cricket. You could have got your own back by still managing to get your face on their screens...

In retrospect, it might be a good thing that the Beeb snubbed your birthday shenanigans. After all, you're getting on a bit, and if ITV decide to cover the event at least you'll have a couple of minutes during the ads to get the fishbones out without losing your dignity.

I'd actually prefer Sky to pick up the rights to broadcast your bash. My half-cousin Richard Keys is always a bit short of work during the summer because there's no Premiership football, so he could host the show. The way Andy Gray commentates, he'd even manage to make it sound exciting.

Anyway, have a great time – and remember: if you're feeling your age, there *is* an answer. You probably remember that in the 20s French aristos used to inject monkey glands to make themselves more 'potent'. Indeed, you may even have been the object of their affections.

All I can say is, they certainly work for me.

Gawd bless you ma'am,

Mail monkey

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Each letter published wins a PC World Healthcheck – the MOT service for your PC. It includes diagnostic and anti-virus checks, plus a complete valet inside and out, worth £39.99.

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THE NET NOW

NET NEWS, FUN STUFF AND OPINION

www.thenetnow.co.uk

WHAT'S INSIDE THE NET NOW?

NET NEWS

All the latest Internet news updated every day: we'll bring you the latest sites, news of who's Webcasting and Webchatting where and when – plus all that's happening in the world of the Net.

FUN STUFF

Need something to pass the time? Bored at work and looking for some light relief? Check out our email attachment of the day, offering you the loudest laugh in cyberspace.

SOFTWARE CENTRE

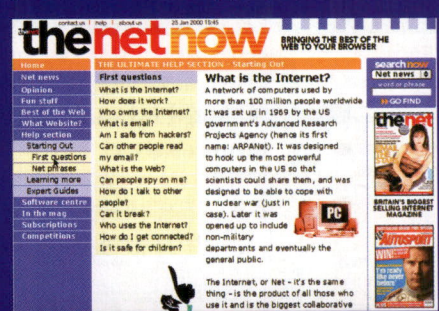
We'll show you where to find the best software available. Whether it's for work or play, we've searched out all of the essential software to make your life online more enjoyable.

WHAT WEBSITE?

There's a huge number of Web addresses in *the net* each month, but don't panic: we've archived every site we've ever featured!

BEST OF THE WEB

What's your favourite Web site? We'll feature one every week from your recommendations, and keep a league table of the sites you're voting for.



HELP SECTION

Don't know your FTP from your HTML? We've got loads of Net advice on our site, and – praise be! – it's all written in plain English.

FUN TO STAY AT THE IMDB

No12 THE INTERNET MOVIE DATABASE
www.imdb.com

Answer the following question as quickly as possible. Where, geographically, is the home of the Internet Movie Database? If you answered America, think again. 'Most people in this country seem to assume we're an American company, not realising that we're actually British,' says Col Needham, main man behind the IMDb, the head office of which is based in Bristol. Surprised? Well, that's exactly what the IMDb's good at – surprises.

The appealing thing about the IMDb is that it's just so damn vast – go along to look for one thing and you will, it's guaranteed, find something else that will catch your eye. Looking for a film with a plot about earthworms? It'll locate one for you (*Squirm* (1976)). If you haven't seen the site before, prepare to be amazed – there's information on a staggering 230,000 movies. But that's not all; there are also biographies of stars, links to official sites, comments and ratings, features, galleries, previews and message boards, charts and tables galore, and users are invited to contribute their knowledge. Best of all, it's really easy to use.

So far, Titanic is proving the most popular in the Movie Goofs section

The Internet's mega movie site will shortly celebrate its tenth birthday – not bad for something that began life as a hybrid of a movie newsgroup and Needham's own personal film database. Originally beginning as a list of actresses, the list soon expanded to include actors as well. Contributors started to add information from their own fields of expertise, and when the group finally got their first FTP site in 1992, things really began to take off.

Such was the quality and quantity of the site's information that by 1995 traffic passing through was doubling 'every two to three weeks'. The site began to grow rapidly, with visitors from around the world contributing to its pages. The fast-growing IMDb team felt the consequences. 'We were under pressure, in that we all had day jobs and other bits of our lives outside IMDb,' says Needham. He eventually took the decision to turn professional and quit his job in research and development for a US computer manufacturer.

Then, in 1998, Amazon.com offered to buy the site. Best of all, the successful formula that had guaranteed its success to date was allowed to continue. 'The great thing was that IMDb would be the foundation for Amazon's video store, but the IMDb.com service on our Web site would continue to operate in the same way as before,' says Needham. 'It was definitely a dream come true'.

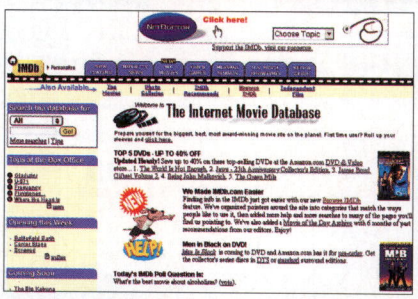
Since then, the IMDb has flourished. It now covers thousands of films, starting in 1892, from all over the world – 'Afghanistan to Zimbabwe'. And its huge database of those involved in the film industry covers some 850,000 people, from superstar directors to location caterers.

Last year, over 50,000 people made a contribution to the site and the future is looking bright for the IMDb. 'There are a lot of good things in the pipeline,' says Needham. A 'Movie Goofs' section has been launched, which details mistakes and anachronisms in films submitted by viewers – *Titanic* was the most popular for this when we visited. Also new is the 'My Movies' section, in which you can input your own film collection then use the site to browse it by genre, year or star. 'If you've got a large video collection, it's useful,' says Needham, whose all-time favourite flick is gore-fest *Psycho*. 'I've got over 1000 DVDs, so choosing something to watch in my house is quite an experience!'

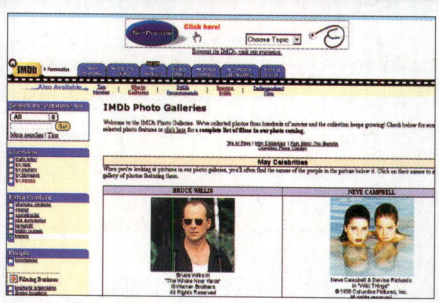
Finally, more content is being uploaded in other languages, beginning with German and Italian, and making a visit to the site an even more global experience.

Just don't forget: it all began in Britain.

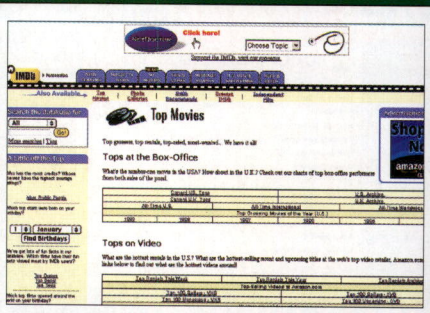
THE SILVER SCREEN... Need to know the wardrobe supervisor for *The Godfather*? Head to the IMDb...



WHAT IS IT? A hugely comprehensive and easy-to-use guide to just about every movie you can think of, as well as the people in the industry and the latest film news.



LAUNCHED First FTP site in 1992.
TRAFFIC Viewed by around five million unique users every month.
BASE Main office in Bristol.



KEY FEATURES The 230,000 movies covered on the site are searchable by title, plot, character and quotes. There are also box-office charts, news, galleries and thousands of links.

WORDS: SARAH WAKELY; PHOTOGRAPHY: ROBERT WHITROW

Needham: not at all like Norman Bates

‘Most people in this country think we’re an American company’

CLUB TOGETHER Sports teams find a home

IN THE TEAM

www.intheteam.com

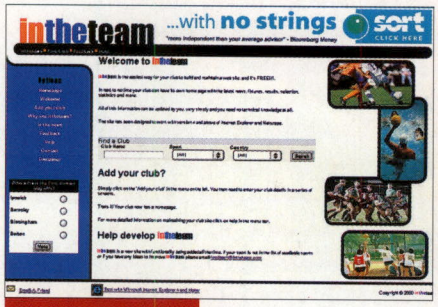
Among the dead pages littering cyberspace, the most irksome are those outdated sites for every sports team ever to have polished a boot. It's easy to start a site following a team's progress, but it soon becomes a chore to keep it updated – hence pages heralding 'forthcoming fixtures for 1997/98'.

The same thing happened to Paul Cripps's rugby team. Paul's brother had set up a site but quickly tired of spending every Sunday playing with FTP, and the site fell into disuse. However, it died so that others might live. A programmer for 13 years and a Web application developer for the last four, Paul had a project – and it wasn't just a new site for his rugger team...

'I thought I'd do something where anyone could go in and update it themselves without FTP,' he explains. 'It wouldn't be too difficult to make it available to other rugby clubs. Then I thought, why just rugby clubs?'

The result was intheteam.com, to which fans of all sorts of sports flocked to add their details. 'I put in a Crystal Palace one myself – I'm an armchair fan – to show people how to do it.' He needn't have bothered; you need no technical knowledge to update the information, so any authorised team member can do it. 'Most people have got it up and running really quickly. I don't know how many sports there are on it, but I'd have thought there's around 30. That was my inspiration.'

So did he spend long hours sweating away over a hot keyboard? Not really... 'It was something to do in my spare time using all the skills I use at work, but when you're developing an interesting application it inspires you far more to do it. I love sport, whereas if it was a dry insurance application it'd be a little bit harder.'



Authorised members need no technical knowledge to update the info

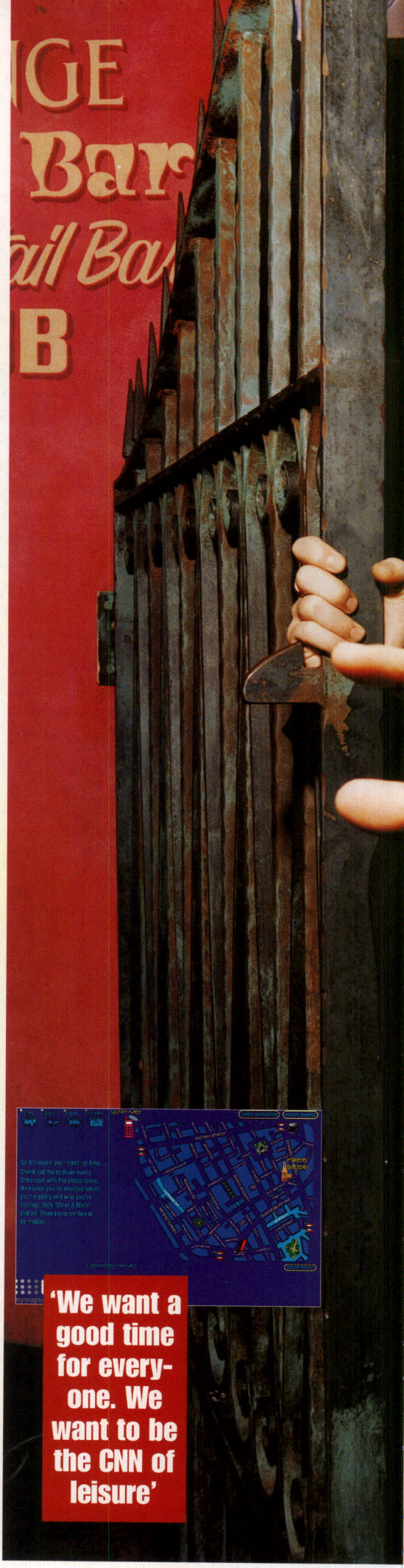
Kind words also spur Paul on. 'I got an email this morning saying, "I love the site, everyone I've showed it to is really impressed, keep going!" It gives you real motivation.'

The effort is reciprocated by devotees: 'Some people are spending as much time improving their club pages as I am developing the site!'

There are already more than 100 teams represented on intheteam.com, and Paul reckons he's getting nearly 250 unique visitors each day – 'Not bad considering I haven't put a lot of effort into promotion. But it's still early days yet and I'll be promoting in June, July and August, when everyone's keen to get their Web sites up and running for the new season.'

Better rush to set up those Euro 2000 sites...

WORDS: GARY PARKINSON; PICTURES: STEVE ORINO



'We want a good time for everyone. We want to be the CNN of leisure'

ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

Where's the party?

MY WAP WORLD

www.mywapworld.com

Ever stood on a street after a meal at a restaurant, wanting to continue partying but not knowing where to go? Of course you have. Who you gonna call? Mywapworld!

Tamer Garip is on a mission to show the world a good time, through WAP phone technology and his ever-expanding site, ***www.mywapworld.com***. What he does is investigate an area's nightlife, selecting and describing the best bars, pubs, clubs and celebrity hangouts. He started, sensibly enough, in Soho, but the genesis of the idea was elsewhere in the capital.

'Four of us were having a drink at the Sun in Clapham,' explains Tamer, 'and we realised we all had mobile phones. Thinking about WAP, we thought, "Wouldn't it be great to get free beer through your phone?"'

From such a sensible acorn grew a lovely oak of nightlife know-how. Luckily the drinking buddies were directors of new media agency SohoLondon, so they knew where to go and what to do. Holsten supplied the free beer, while BT Genie's WAP site provided access to 650,000 users.

'The mywapworld philosophy is to save you time and enhance your quality of life,' summarises Tamer. 'It's about functionality. If I find a bar with live blues music, I can send details to all my friends with location and directions. We can organise our whole social lives through the mobile while on a bus or in a taxi.'

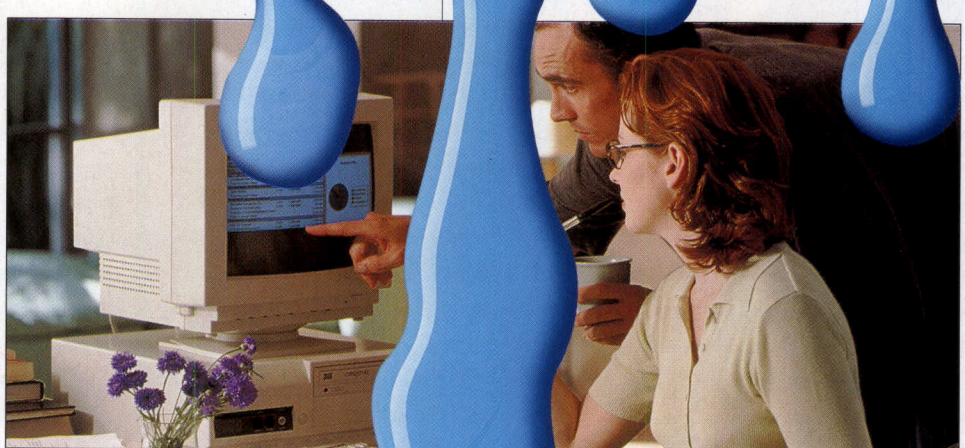
To look around the Flash-tastic Web site, you wouldn't know the content was designed with WAP phones in mind. But then, Tamer is impatiently waiting for technology – and the world – to catch up with him.

'People talk about mobile Internet as if it's just transferring content to your phone. But what you want from your mobile phone is personal service. We're providing chat-up lines and put-down lines, and we have roving reporters on the streets on weekend evenings seeing what's going on. We want to provide a good time for everybody. We want to be the CNN of entertainment and leisure.'

That will come with coverage, and mywapworld is branching into several new locations – Clerkenwell, Shoreditch, Notting Hill and Covent Garden in the capital; with Brighton, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and Nottingham to follow by the end of the summer.

'We've got to limit it or we can't deliver,' warns Tamer, 'but we're expecting people in other cities with the same passion as us to ring up and complain. I'd like those people to prove to me that their town has a nightlife.' Expect the calls to come flooding in.

WWW.VITA
LET MUSIC IN



The «Sensation Four» top the ...et charts

The most talked-about case in the MP3 alternative hit parade and leaders of the "Top Downloads" of songs from Vitaminic (www.vitaminic.it, the red-hot Italian music site), the "Sensation Four" have arrived. They have been compared to the Liverpool Four for their musical style and for the interplanetary success they are now enjoying.

It's a success that is completely virtual because no one has ever seen them playing and singing on a real stage, in flesh and blood. We can admire them in their special effects-filled concerts only on the Web. Little hair on their heads, unimpressive physiques, they've been chasing after a success that has only arrived now thanks to Vitaminic. Says Alan, the group's spokesman: "It's not true that real socialism is a failure. On the Internet there are no privileges and we're all equal. On the Web, success is decided by real people rather than being dictated by the usual economic interests. Vitaminic – that's musical socialism for you. Unfortunately the world wasn't able to appreciate our music before; for twenty years we were in the shadows, unjustly crushed by the usual stars. But now our time has come!"

You can discover the latest sensation on: www.vitaminic.it/sensation_four.

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was needed. An incubator of ideas.
The golden egg had been laid!

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This ad had such ary
success that Toros w ced

WWW.VITAMINIC.CO.UK
vitaminic
THE MUSIC EVOLUTION

THE BEACH BOYS

Essentials items for your summer holiday, whether it's going to be in Bognor or Bali

Well, it's finally here – that time of year when the sun shines, the temperature hots up and the day stretches forever.

And as surely as summer follows spring, women will be wishing they'd started that diet months ago, and men will be wondering if that beer gut might be just a *tad* excessive.

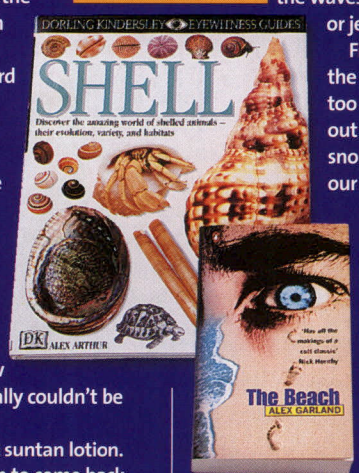
The annual exodus starts now, and whether you're going to burn in Margate or Mauritius the basic beach equipment is the same. But this year, instead of braving the hordes on the high street (you've got that to look forward to on the beach), get online and do essential holiday shopping from the comfort of your own home.

We've put together a guide to everything you'll need while bronzing, so follow our picks and it really couldn't be simpler. Honest.

First things first: suntan lotion. Unless it's your aim to come back resembling a lobster you're going to need some of this. Log on to Boots and purchase lotions with two different SPFs – a high factor to start with, and a lower number for when you're no longer fluorescent. Swimsuits are also high on the must-have factor, so there are Speedos for swimmers and faux leopardskin for posers.

For the serious sun-worshipper, a selection of reading material comes courtesy of *www.amazon.co.uk*, as does the *Cowabunga!* CD box set – that definitive surf music collection for your portable player. Meanwhile a friendly game of beach tennis or baseball should while away the hours for the less lardy of arse. Alternatively, take to the waves on a surfboard or jet-ski.

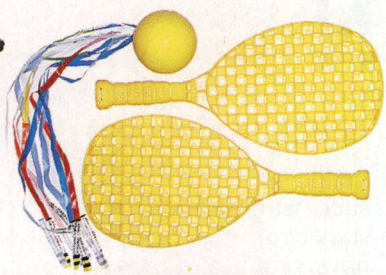
A friendly game of beach tennis should while away the hours



Finallly, when the rays just get too intense, chill out with a little snorkelling, using our state-of-the-art gear. And take the opportunity of being underwater to try out your waterproof camera – our snazzy little number is one of Canon's finest.

That's it, folks – *the net*'s recipe for a happy holiday!

WATERPROOF CAMERA £129.99 *www.qed-uk.com*



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BIKINI £14.99
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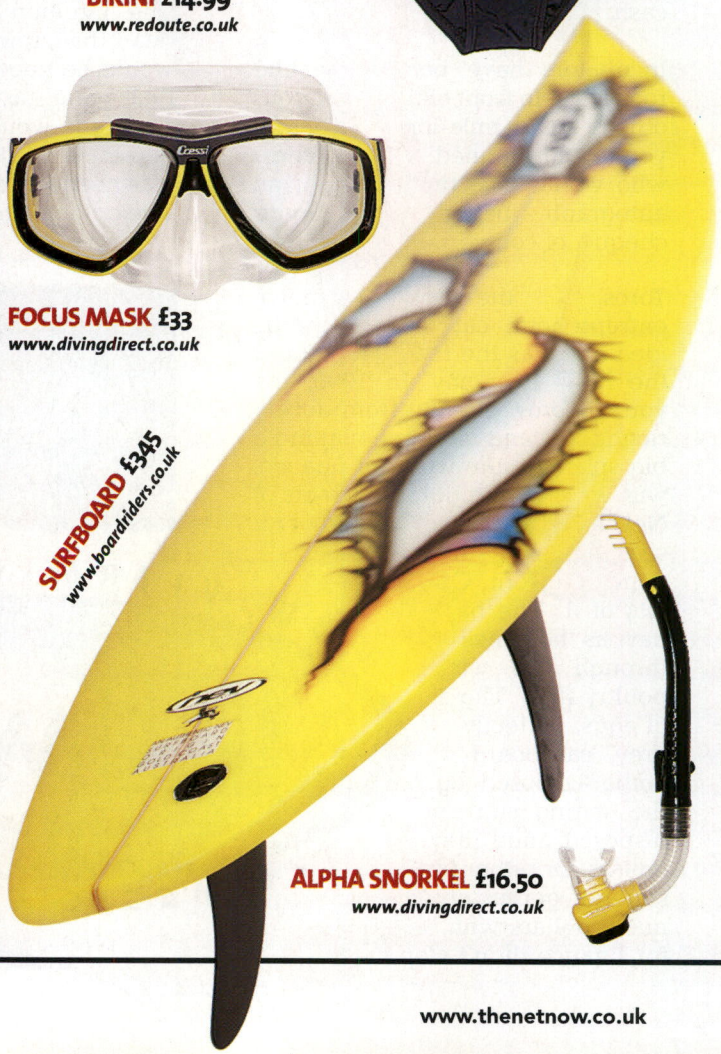

SURFBOARD £345
www.boardriders.co.uk

ALPHA SNORKEL £16.50
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HOW THE SITES COMPARE

DENNEY DIVING *www.divingdirect.co.uk*
Excellent site for all dive goods. There's an exhaustive range of products at this knowledgeable and well laid-out site. ★★★★★

BOOTS *www.boots.co.uk*
The first stop for all your summer (and non-summer) lotions and potions. Essential. ★★★★

LA REDOUTE *www.redoute.co.uk*
Large selection of well-priced clothes, undies and footwear for men and women at this easy-to-use site. ★★★★

AMAZON *www.amazon.co.uk*
One-stop site for beach-based music and reading, with a massive selection at competitive prices. ★★★★★

QED *www.qed-uk.com*
An extremely wide selection of all types of electrical products. Simple to use, too. ★★★★

ETOYS *www.etoys.co.uk*
Etoys offers a huge range of seawater-friendly toys and goods at reasonable prices. Aimed at kids of all ages... ★★★

WORDS: CLAIRE MCHATTIE, SARAH WAKELEY; PICTURES: NICK WRIGHT, KATZ

WHAT IS IT WITH BIKINIS?

The Internet and swimwear really shouldn't be pals – after all, Web surfing is an indoor activity, while the aquatic version involves lots and lots of unfriendly-to-your-interface sea water. However, chums they are, as can be governed by the huge amount of swimwear sites there are online. It's not just limited to retail shops – although there are plenty of those, as you'll see by the amount of gear we've

collected for these pages. No, there are also a lot of bikini sites for your viewing pleasure, and although many of them are, erm, of a dubious nature, there are an awful lot that certainly won't get you the sack for viewing them at work. Take a site like Bikini.com (***www.bikini.com***), which has some of the world's most lovely ladies in some of the world's most beautiful swimwear. And for the girls, there are the Boys of Summer on the same site. Enjoy!

Vanessa's diet was successful beyond her wildest dreams

SITES TO SURF AT

It's ironic; just about the only place you can't access the Internet is on the beach – unless you forever want to be scraping sand out of the nooks of your laptop, that is. So before you head for the surf, shingle and a bad case of sunburn, use these sites to help you make the most of that briny experience.

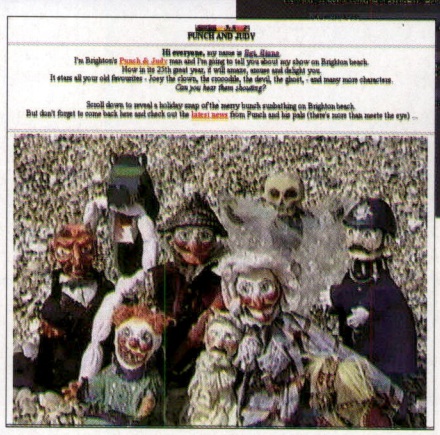
ON THE WAY

Check out the beach before you go via the Internet. The Good Beach Guide (***www.goodbeachguide.co.uk***) will point you to a clean and safe haven, while Knowhere (***www.knowhere.co.uk***) gives an honest opinion of the backwaters of Britain.

Sites such as Wavecam (***www.wavecam.com***) will let you study the surf. Finally, if you want to help keep Britain's beaches clean, head for the Surfers Against Sewage site at ***www.sas.org.uk***.

WATERSPORTS

There you are, relaxing with a good book on a secluded beach – before some flash git comes along on a jet-ski and ruins the tranquillity. Toy of choice for the rich and famous, go to ***www.jetski.ndirect.co.uk*** to see what it's all about. For those who prefer a more serene marine activity, glide over to ***www.boards.co.uk*** for the latest windsurfing news and



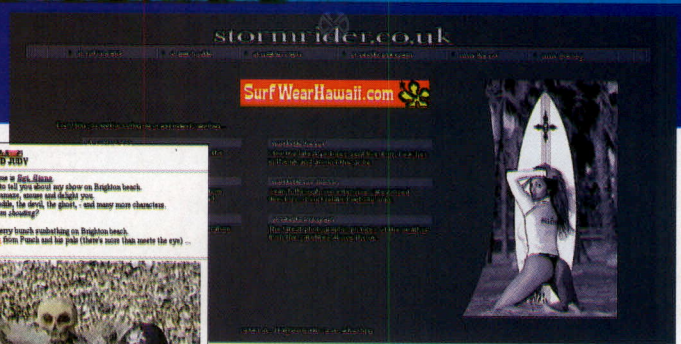
advice. As for diving: if you're in to the scuba variety look at ***www.subaqua.co.uk***, or the reassuringly named ***www.hellsmouth.co.uk*** if exploring shipwrecks turns you on. Rather you than us. And for those who sport the blond 'surfer' look, there is a plethora of UK surfing sites; among the best are ***www.stormrider.co.uk*** and ***britsurf.co.uk***.

OUT OF THE WATER

If you can't be bothered to indulge in anything actually in the water, boating could be your thing (***www.boats.co.uk***). Beach volleyball also has its attractions – ***www.beachmania.com***. If plucking aquatic life out of its natural habitat is your idea of fun, take a look at ***www.sea-fishing.com***. Then why not race around the beach atop a motorbike? ***www.motocross.co.uk*** will tell you how.

For some reason, lying on a beach tends to inspire the architect in us. To improve your skills, head to Sandy Feet's Sand Castle Tips for Beginners (***www.unlitter.com/sandcastle/bggnrs.html***). As for the nature around you, ***www.seashells.org*** will help you identify, erm, seashells, and ***www.aquarium.org/jellies*** will save you testing those old wives' tales about easing jellyfish stings.

Finally, head for ***www.desktop.demon.co.uk/punch/punch.html***, the home page of Sgt Stone, Brighton beach's purveyor of that British favourite, Punch and Judy. Altogether: 'That's the way to do it!'



PICTURES: NICK WRIGHT, IMAGEBANK

RONDINE FINS £18.99
www.divingdirect.co.uk

PERSONAL CD PLAYER £49.85
www.qed-uk.com

MULES £24.99 *www.next.co.uk*

SHORTS £9.99 *www.redoute.co.uk*

SWIMSUIT £33 *www.newitts.co.uk*

NERF MINI VORTEX £4.99
www.etoys.co.uk

SOFT BASEBALL SET
£4.99
www.etoys.co.uk

SUNTAN LOTION
FROM £8.29
www.boots.co.uk

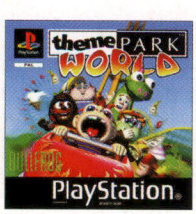
SUNGLASSES FROM £99
www.kirkoriginals.com

JET-SKI £6,795 *www.kawasaki.co.uk*

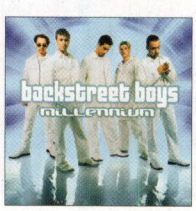
BOX MAN
boxman.co.uk

Prices exclude postage and packaging.

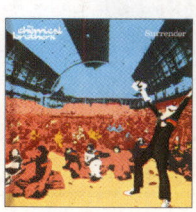
Gran Turismo 2
PlayStation
£29.99



Theme Park World
PlayStation
£29.99



Backstreet Boys
Millennium
£10.99



The Chemical Brothers
Surrender
£10.99

Buena Vista Social Club
£15.99

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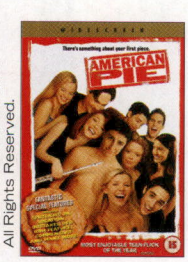

American Pie
£19.99

GOOD MORNING, JOBSEEKERS!

WILL THE RECRUITMENT SITES HELP OUR GUINEA PIGS FIND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT?

PSST! LOOKING FOR A JOB? THERE'S A GOOD chance you are, but what's the possibility of actually finding the one you want? In the old days it was a process of spreading the classified pages of the local rag over your kitchen table. Nowadays things are easier, what with the eruption of employment Web sites, giving you the chance to change career at the click of a mouse. At least that's the theory. The benefits of e-recruitment are obvious: CVs and job details sent by email, and you don't even have to buy a newspaper. But is it as easy at it sounds?

To find out if the system really works, we followed three job-hunters who set out in the New Year to find employment via the Web. We were to have featured a fourth candidate who wanted to find work as a chef. But this was a non-starter, as he was told that in the non-office world the Net's not used for recruitment – it's all word-of-mouth and the small ads. Sure enough, most of the pages are for positions in the IT sector or for other 'professionals'. However, in the months we spent following our volunteers, a specialist catering site duly sprang up – the excruciatingly named ***www.eggsbenefit.com***. Doubtless every profession will have its own portal in the future.

Until that day, people whose experience is outside the office world might be better off sticking to specialist, non-Internet, agencies. But how would our three jobseekers fare?

WORDS: RICHARD TIPPETT; PICTURES: STEVE ORINO, PA

MARTIN MAY
The mature student

Martin May knows what it's like to live dangerously. He's roadied for Def Leppard and on one occasion climbed 60ft as an assistant rigger to put up the PA and lighting system. In the dark. He's also experienced the dubious delights of busking in the streets of Brighton, where he lives; one day his 'pay' was as many pints of Guinness as The Fiddlers Elbow pub could serve him as long as he served the ditties.

Apart from a talent for day-to-day existence, 39 year-old Martin also possesses a BA in economics from Sussex University and an MSc in economic history from the LSE, both gained as a mature student. He also has a desire to put busking behind him and work in business or market research. Would the Web sort him out?

The fact is, employers aren't that keen on mature students. Managers today tend to be just old enough to have chucked away the Clearasil, and having someone around who remembers life before Channel 5 can cause tension.

We got Martin to tap away at the keyboard and see if his career prospects were rosier online. He'd decided that the local Job Centre was little more than a sort of vacancy litter bin, the place where jobs that are too badly paid to be advertised properly end up. As for the local paper – yes, it's got hundreds of vacancies, but 90 percent of these involve the word 'carer' or 'cleaner'. Unfortunately, his antediluvian PC wouldn't access some of the graphics-heavy, multimedia employment sites. Martin eventually had to alternate between using a friend's PC and haunting the library, which offered Net access for about two quid for a couple of hours.

So, where to start? Your ISP's home page is one place. It'll probably have a connection to one

May: waiting for that big break

of the job sites. Ensconced in his local library, Martin simply typed 'job' into a search engine and came up with a list of sites (44 in all). The first he encountered was ***www.jobsite.co.uk***. This is the longest-established recruitment site in the UK, and claims to be home to 14,000 jobs. What you do is search for a position by selecting the industry you want to work in. This means you get a large selection of jobs, which is good; but they aren't numbered, so trying to go back to recall details of a job seen earlier is tiresome.

Next he logged onto ***www.jobsearch.co.uk***. This had limited search capabilities and the job categories it searches are very specific (eg he couldn't type in 'research'). So it was on to *The Guardian*'s Web site (***www.jobsunlimited.co.uk***). This is exactly like the daily recruitment section of the newspaper itself, with the jobs divided up into Media, Sales and the like. Very *Guardian*... not very helpful to our man.

By now it was getting late in the day. Surfing the Web for a job isn't fast, and sorting out Def Leppard's lighting system started to seem like an easy option, so Martin badgered his mate into letting him use his PC next day.

The following morning he tried ***www.jobs.ac.uk***. This is dedicated to academic positions and research posts. It claimed to have over 1400 jobs, and he found one at Greenwich University which seemed just the ticket – but he couldn't apply online as he didn't know his mate's email password. The deadline was that day, the mate wasn't contactable, the mate's wife had no idea what his password was. Martin gave up.

Next came ***www.topjobs.co.uk***, which specialises in managerial, technical and professional recruitment. He typed in 'consultant' and came up with over 300 jobs, all numbered, but the site didn't make it easy for him to narrow his search – a pain when you're looking for a specific type of job. On the plus side, it might come up with a job you hadn't thought of.

He also tried ***www.bigbluedog.co.uk***, the London *Evening Standard* site. He typed in 'temp' and it only found 26 jobs in the London area, which was pretty poor. The job categories were very specific – if you're looking for a job as a legal secretary, for example, this is the site for you. Finally he tried ***www.stepstone.co.uk***: boasting 12,000 jobs in the UK, it appears to be faster than most, but it's also Europe-wide, so God knows where you might end up. In Martin's case, still on his arse in a Brighton flat.

Several months later, Martin's still counting coppers every evening. He did see a vacancy for a research assistant on a local portal, ***www.thisisbrighton.co.uk***. He looked up the company on its Web site, then tailored his CV and covering letter accordingly. He was subsequently shortlisted and did a bit more research on the company's Web site, only to fall at the final hurdle, despite what he thought was a good interview. Here was proof that it *is* possible to move from searching online right through to an appointment with the boss. That final pay-off, though – a bona fide job – remained elusive...

The local Job Centre was little more than a vacancy litter bin

Can you save Martin from busking on the mean streets of Brighton? If so, email us at ***thenetnow@haynet.com*** *and we'll pass your proposals on to him.*

TOP JOB SITES Click into a new career

- ***www.jobsunlimited.co.uk***
From *The Guardian* comes an easy-to-use guide to the sort of jobs you'll find in the print version.
- ***www.jobsearch.co.uk***
Thousands of listings in popular categories, but few ways to narrow down your search.
- ***www.jobsite.co.uk***
Well-organised employment site, with email, CV facilities and career advice.
- ***www.monster.co.uk***
Be guided around this useable and comprehensive site by a friendly cartoon monster. Includes a free CV service.
- ***www.jobsin.co.uk***
A plethora of industry-specific job sites in an impressively accessible format.
- ***www.stepstone.co.uk***
One of the biggest search sites on the Web, with good support and listings.
- ***www.totaljobs.com***
More job categories than you can shake a stick at, plus a handy salary checker.
- ***www.reed.co.uk***
Everything you get from Reed's local offices online. Register for further benefits.
- ***www.fish4jobs.co.uk***
Massive array of vacancies around the country and a well thought-out search engine.
- ***www.onrec.com***
An index of recruitment sites, grouped by profession.
- ***www.gradunet.co.uk***
A board of jobs for graduates, plus career advice.
- ***www.expatnetwork.co.uk***
Find a job abroad and get information on setting up in a new country.
- ***www.wideyes.com***
Will help manage your career as well as find you a job; has online psychometric testing.

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Domain Registration fees

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WEBFUSION WELCOME

Surf to OR CALL 0115 9170000

HELEN MUSKETT
The professional

Maybe you wouldn't go quite as far as calling it her year of living dangerously, but Helen Muskett decided that 2000 was to be her 'year of major change'. So she bought a flat in May and is getting married in July. She decided she might as well get a new job while she was at it.

Helen's job was based in west London, recruiting EFL (English as a Foreign Language) teachers for schools overseas. She'd been doing it for two years and decided that, at 28, she wanted something a bit more challenging, although still in the human resources/recruitment field.

Like Martin, she nosed around Stepstone, who'd already sent some info. Although she didn't find a job through them, there was a kind of consolation prize when she won a Christmas cake in a seasonal Stepstone competition.

The patience of Job was required while she waited

She then surfed some of the most popular sites – ***www.monster.co.uk***, Jobsite, Jobsunlimited and Jobsearch – plus ***www.totaljobs.com***, ***taps.com*** and ***www.peoplebank.com***. She bashed in 'recruitment' and 'HR London' to aid her search, and most sites came up with a number of posts, which she applied for. The patience of Job was required as she waited for any sort of reply. Eventually one – just the one – came. It was via email and asked her to resend her CV in case anything came up. Her best human resource at this point was restraining the urge to put a mallet through the computer.

Having said that, some of the sites did provide info on things like compiling your CV and good interview techniques (you know, for those jobs she wasn't being told about). One other thing – having 'HR' in her search title meant *any* ads with 'HR' in them were heading her way; she was getting regular bulletins from the world of engineering.

Then, good news. After a long silence she was suddenly lined up with three interviews, the third of which turned up trumps. It was arranged through ***www.netdecisions.co.uk*** and the job she's landed is recruiting people to do Web design for companies like Coca-Cola and McDonald's. It had taken four months but she'd hit paydirt, and just in time for her wedding. Now all she needs to work out is how to get a sofabed into a third-storey Victorian flat without having to take the windows out. Compared to the trials and tribulations of getting a job online, it sounds like a breeze.

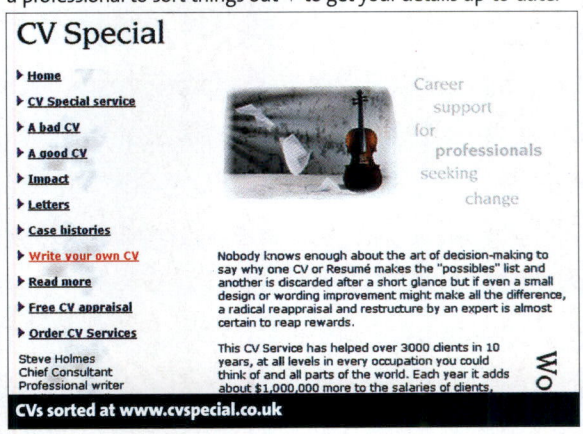
Muskett: success – eventually

POLISH THAT CV! Get them gleaming here

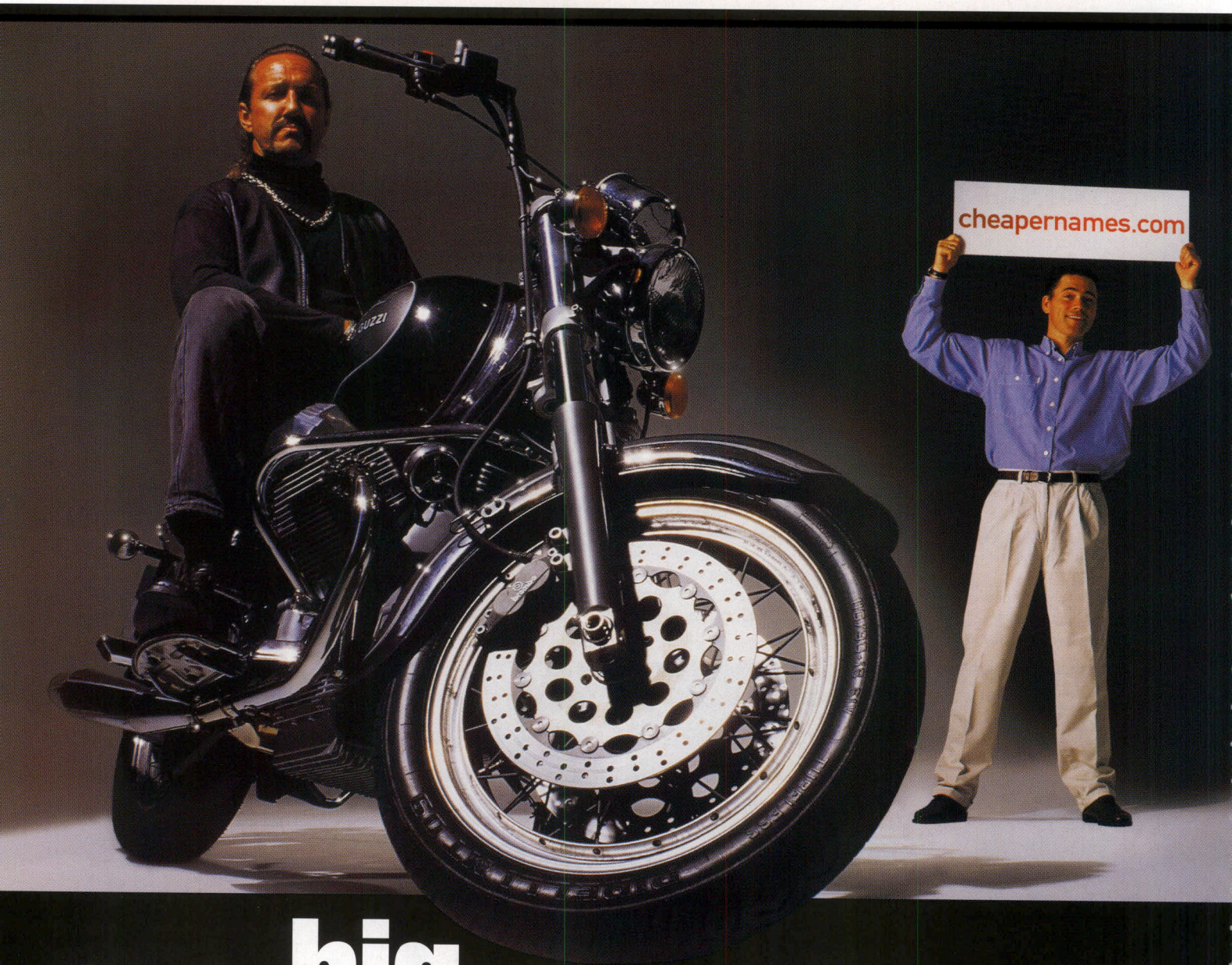
Even in these hi-tech times, there's no escaping the traditional CV – the tool that can make the difference between career success or long mornings spent with Richard & Judy and a Pot Noodle. Even if you've found a potential position on a Web site and sent off a covering email with the relevant platitudes, the chances are you'll be asked for an electronic resumé anyway.

The rules are the same as for offline CVs – and the more advice you can get, the better your chances of a result. Try ***www.free-resume-tips.com***, for example, which does exactly what it says in the URL with tips on tailoring your CV to a range of different careers. Meanwhile, ***www.provenresumes.com*** contains free workshops on sharpening your style and presentation.

But if you're feeling flush, pay a professional to sort things out for you. At ***www.cvspecial.co.uk***, a full-time resumé writer will sort out your CV and letter as well as passing on helpful advice. Or try using a free CV builder like the one at ***taps.com*** to get your details up-to-date.



the world's lowest cost domain names



this is big bill who comes with every "free" domain name...

this is little bill from Cheapernames

.co.uk
£8.50 including VAT

.com
£33 including VAT

- No strings attached.
- Your domain name registered in your name, not anyone else's!
- Backed by the world's largest UK registrar established in 1996.
- Change your e-mail and web forwarding settings 24 hours a day using our web based control panel.
- Free e-mail and cloaked web forwarding.
- Account manager for volume buyers.
- Business web space from £49pa.
- 250mb space including free domain: £100pa.

cheaper names .com
the world's lowest cost domain names

THE WORLD'S LOWEST COST DOMAIN NAMES

www.cheapernames.com

Friend: leaving the undies behind

JENNIFER FRIEND
The first-timer

Some people (ie blokes) might think that spending half the week organising parties for Ann Summers would be a job made in heaven, but for Jennifer Friend it's just a sideline. A fun sideline, for sure, but not a career option, as she's quick to point out.

Jenny's in the final year of a degree in leisure management at the Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies, and is after a job in PR. She jumped at the chance to be our guinea pig in the pursuit of her first 'real' job. Like Martin, she thought bosses would be falling over themselves to employ someone armed with a (soon-to-be-realised) degree.

It was on with surfing – and the negative replies

She kicked off by bombarding the sites in February. These included Monster (very impressive, easy to use), ***www.jflrecruit.com*** (applied for an advertised job), ***www.themediaplace.co.uk*** (small site, had to write to them to get more specific job details), ***www.canto.co.uk*** (not impressed), ***www.spectrumrecruit.co.uk*** (good, but nothing there) and Jobsite (very good, signed up for them to send her job details on email). For light relief, she threw together matching sets of Ann Summers scanties.

JFL Recruit were the first to reply – not too encouragingly. Then Jobsite got back to her. They let you eliminate any vocations that don't apply to your job search. Jenny stressed that engineering was out, after a distressing amount of vacancies for spot-welding flooded her email.

So it was on with surfing – and the negative replies. ***www.michaelpage.com*** (discovered in *Marketing Week*) were totally uninterested, and she began to get slightly annoyed when ***www.majorplayers.co.uk*** showed the same lack of enthusiasm. Why had they bothered putting an ad in *PR Week* for graduates to submit CVs?

After a month (up to mid-March) the only site to show any sort of interest in the 21-year-old from Birmingham were Jobsite, bless 'em. And the only things moving in Jenny's life were the undies she flogged at AS parties.

At this stage, Jenny had registered at well over 30 employment sites, and received just three replies. She was feeling very non-motivated so did what all non-motivated unsuccessful job-hunters should try: spent the evening at Dave and Buster's restaurant bar in Solihull.

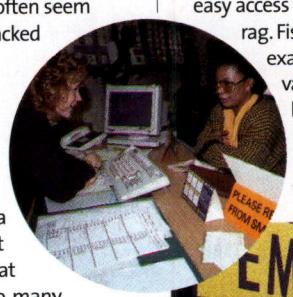
It must have done the trick. Next day, The Media Place gave her a call asking her to go and see them at their offices in London's South Molton Street, from where she was sent on to Kensington for a 'casual chat' with PR company Barclay Stratton. The chat progressed to an interview two weeks later, where an unfortunate irony tangled the wires: Barclay Stratton wanted Jenny to start as a team assistant straight away, but she couldn't do that because she had to sit her finals in a few weeks' time.

But there was one final twist. Shirley, PR recruiter at The Media Place, stayed on Jenny's case and got her an interview with another London company. It went well and, hey presto, she bagged a job, beginning after her finals were out of the way.

Which is all very well, but where does that leave all those West Midland females in need of a saucy pair of lace knickers?

TOP TIPS Ensure success on the Web hunt for jobs

- If you *telephone* about a Net-advertised job, the people at the other end often seem totally gobsmacked and not sure what to do. So don't expect any forms to arrive in next day's post.
- If you want a new career but aren't sure what you want to do, many sites offer a 'psychometric' test so you can find out what sort of jobs suit you and your abilities.
- Sites that don't narrow down your search might seem like a real pain, but they do throw up a variety of jobs you might not have thought of applying for.
- If you're looking for a career in a different town, the Net puts you on an equal footing with job-hungry locals with easy access to the evening rag. Fish4Jobs, for example, hosts vacancies from hundreds of local papers, from the *Fenland Citizen* to *Widnes World*. It's also useful for a range of summer jobs, too.
- If you still can't find a job through the Net, take heart: a recent survey found that unemployed men in Hastings who continued to frequent their local pub were much more likely to find a job than those who didn't.



Walk through these doors and be offered unsuitable jobs

Budweiser
SERVE COLD
970-3500
FOR THE SEXIEST TALK
CALL ME NOW!
I'm Wild, Wet, and Waiting
FOR SAFETY – STRIKE ON BACK
970-9500
Wedding List
No Toasters.
Nintendo
Pool Table
Towels
Nothing Pink
New Car
Tom and Vicky
invite you to our
Wedding
at the
Registry office
28 of June 2000
Then Down to The Pub
To Celebrate!*
Wedding Ring Sets
50
48

NICE DAY FOR A WEB WEDDING

From falling in love to dividing up the CDs, the Net's there for you before, during and after 'I do'

FIRST THINGS FIRST

BUYING THE RING

So you've decided to pop the question – but you can't turn up empty-handed...

WHAT THE SITES SAY 'You are well advised to steer clear of second-hand rings, unless they are quality antiques or family heirlooms,' advises ***www.confetti.co.uk***. 'Never give a girl a ring you already gave to someone else and got back when it all went pear-shaped.' If you want to buy new, try ***www.jewellerywebshop.co.uk*** – which claims discounts of up to 35 percent on High Street prices – or ***www.finecraftjewellery.com***.

ALTERNATIVELY Fashion an attractive yet frugal ring from elastic bands (£1.96 for a pack from ***www.office-supplies.co.uk***). She might not be impressed, but at least you won't have taken out a second mortgage only for her to say no.

THE PROPOSAL

Increase your chances of success by providing the right setting

WHAT THE SITES SAY According to ***marryingman.com***, you should 'have her office workers throw her a birthday party in a conference room, promising her a male stripper. After cake and soda, she sits down for her stripper but, instead, you walk in with a fresh tux and fresher flowers, get down on one knee, and pop the question. Everyone will be grateful that a male stripper didn't show. No one wants to see that...' ***Confetti.co.uk*** advises asking her dad first 'to win lots of brownie points'.

ALTERNATIVELY Follow the example of the author of ***www.tidalwave.net/~Magic/marriage.html***, whose girlfriend would only agree to get hitched once he had attracted a million hits to his home page. 'If you've ever been in love, you'll know how I feel,' moans the doomed Iothario. 'Please don't reload this page over and over. I can't lie to her...'

FINDING A VENUE

With the best venues booked up months in advance, you'll have to be quick

WHAT THE SITES SAY You'll find all the info on licences and legal requirements at ***www.weddings.co.uk/info/wedplan1.htm***. Elsewhere, ***confetti.co.uk*** has the entire *Nobles Wedding Venue Guide* online, or see

www.places-to-marry.co.uk for more ideas. For the cheap and romantic, ***www.gretna-weddings.co.uk*** will arrange a quick sojourn over the border for you and your beloved. **ALTERNATIVELY** Tie the knot in a hot air balloon, Grand Canyon flight or while bungee jumping with the help of ***www.unusualweddings-lv.com***.

SEND THE INVITATIONS

How to let everyone know when and where the big day is

WHAT THE SITES SAY Most of the major wedding portals contain details of stationers (a search on a Web directory will reveal dozens). Among the best-known are ***wedding stationery.co.uk*** and the similar-yet-distinct ***weddingstationers.co.uk***.

ALTERNATIVELY Use a simple desktop publishing application and the power of email to distribute your own invitations to friends and family. With ***www.streetmap.co.uk***, you can even include a map in your design.

THE STAG NIGHT

A last night of freedom – but how are you going to spend it?

WHAT THE SITES SAY Somewhat unsurprisingly, stag nights are better catered for online than their female equivalents. In fact, there are a host of sites tripping over themselves to offer advice on organising the ideal evening out for the groom-to-be: ***bachelorpartytips.com*** will help with 'blow-up doll tips' and 'stripper tips', while ***thebestman.com*** notes what drinks to mix (and spike).

ALTERNATIVELY Check out the selection of stag-night photos at ***www.heads.cc/stag***! and you'll probably call off the whole thing immediately.

MAKE A WEDDING LIST

'Oh! Another wine glass decanter set. What a delightful surprise...'

WHAT THE SITES SAY The humble wedding list has been transformed by the advent of e-commerce. No longer will Auntie Mavis have to traipse round Selfridges for that stainless steel toaster; with email, you can despatch your list swiftly and let friends and relatives shop online. Debenhams (***www.debenhams.com***) are just one of several stores who will process your list electronically; specialist sites like ***www.wedding.co.uk*** or ***thegiftguide.co.uk*** offer a selection of shops. **ALTERNATIVELY** Tell them to go to ***www.harrods.co.uk*** or they're not coming to the reception.

THE BIG DAY

THE CATERING

No wedding's complete without a cake – but where do you get one?

WHAT THE SITES SAY Let wedding

THE SNAPPER

Don't let your treasured memories turn out like the work of an eight-year-old
WHAT THE SITES SAY 'Give a copy of photos you would like taken along with a list of the people in each photo to both your photographer and ushers,' advises ***wedding-day.co.uk***. Wedding portals contain lists of recommended photographers, as does the Guild Of Wedding Photographers (***www.gwp-uk.co.uk***). If you're feeling daring, former Fleet Street paparazzo Maurice Conroy (***www.thru-lounge.com***) will 'snap guests in compromising positions.'
ALTERNATIVELY Go all hi-tech – ***www.timelessvideos.com*** will make a film of your big day using digital cameras.

services directories ***weddings.co.uk***, ***bride2b.co.uk*** and ***weddingstore.co.uk*** guide you to the right solution; all are searchable by area or service.
ALTERNATIVELY Visit ***wedding-day.co.uk***, where you'll find recipes to make your own wedding cake. Just don't blame us when it's a disaster.

THE CAR HIRE

Get to the church not just in time, but in style, too...
WHAT THE SITES SAY 'Wedding transport should be in keeping with the rest of the wedding. If you're planning a very sophisticated event, turning up in your dad's old banger won't hit quite the right note', advises ***confetti.co.uk***. The likes of ***easyrentacar.com*** will get you something cheap and cheerful; for a slightly more unusual vehicle, try ***www.hooters-hire.co.uk*** whose range includes a 1925 Ford Bus, or ***www.agespast.co.uk***.
ALTERNATIVELY Make a splash by turning up in a helicopter from ***www.griffair.co.uk*** or in one of the horse-drawn carriages available at ***wedding-day.co.uk***.

THE CLOTHING

Look your best without spending the earth
WHAT THE SITES SAY 'Bridal gowns usually take anywhere from four to six months just to come in, and you'll need about a month on top of that for alterations,' advises ***todaysbride.com***. 'Obviously there are exceptions to this rule, but leave yourself as much time as possible before the wedding to be sure you can get the dress you want.' Peruse the online collections at ***www.bridalhouse.co.uk*** or ***bridesdirect.co.uk*** (both of which cater for bride and groom) for more ideas.
ALTERNATIVELY Visit ***www.weddingguideuk.com/TradingPlace.html***, where you'll find lists of second-hand wedding clothing for sale.

THE FLOWERS

Turn the church into Kew Gardens
WHAT THE SITES SAY According to ***todaysbride.com***, 'When you make an appointment with the florist, bring in pictures of flowers and arrangements you like as well as a picture of your gown and swatches of material.' If you want to arrange things electronically, search wedding portals and Web directories for florists or visit ***www.interflora.co.uk***.
ALTERNATIVELY Befuddle guests with a bizarre display of silk plants from ***www.silkplant.co.uk***.

THE SPEECH

'...still, at least Steve's got over that gay phase he went through...'
WHAT THE SITES SAY 'It's all a question of saying the things that matter to you, and having the people who matter to you involved. Choose the people who you would like to say something, decide who should be recognised and thanked, and then work out an order that suits you best,' decrees ***weddingtips.com***. If you're still not sure what to say, read other people's speeches at ***www.weddingcircle.com/fyi/speech***.
ALTERNATIVELY If you have trouble stringing a sentence together, cheat by having your speech written for you at ***www.ungroomd.com/toast.this***.

AFTER THE EVENT

THE HONEYMOON

With the wealth of cheap travel sites available on the Web, you'd be foolish to book offline. Try the travel section of ***confetti.co.uk*** for ideas, or see ***www.afterido.com***, a honeymoon-tailoring service which can recommend destinations or take all the planning off your hands.

HAVING CHILDREN

If you're not sure of exactly what you're doing, you'd better point your browser to ***www.tryingtoconceive.com***, which lays out all the basics. See also: the handy online ovulation calendar at ***www.babydata.com***.

MARITAL DIFFICULTIES

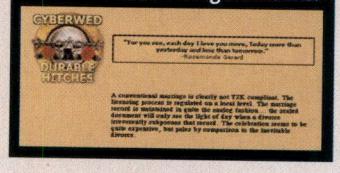
If you didn't bother to take the Mensa compatibility test at ***www.weddingguide.co.uk***, the chances are you might find yourself going through something of a rough patch. Fortunately, Dr Willard F Harley Jr has saved 'thousands of marriages from the pain of unresolved conflict', and his site (***www.marriagebuilders.com***) talks you through the problems you'll encounter after tying the knot. You might find ***www.relate.org.uk*** handy, too. And don't forget ***www.detectivesuk.com*** if you have a particularly suspicious mind.

DIVORCE

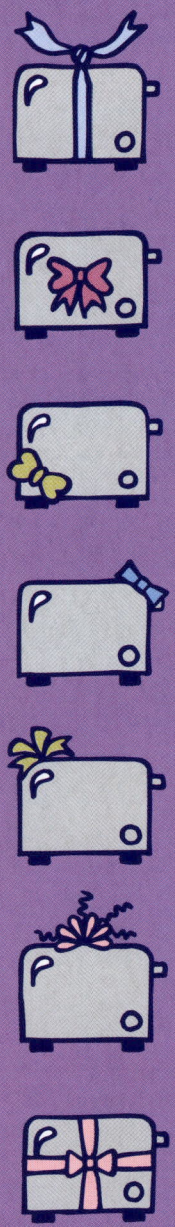
If things become so bad that you can't even stand being in the same room as each other, the Web could come in particularly useful. With the help of Desktop Lawyer (***www.desktoplawyer.freeserve.net***) or ***www.divorce-online.co.uk***, you can get that knot untied electronically with the minimum of fuss – freeing you to do it all over again...

STARTING AGAIN

You'd better start scouring through the small ads at ***www.match.com*** or ***www.datemaker.co.uk***. Then turn back to page 44 and start afresh. But this time why not try a dry run on the Web first? At ***cyberwed.com*** you can be virtually 'married' without all the hassle. Congratulations!



WORDS: ROBERT JEFFERY



are your friends blessed with imagination? thought not.

gift shop Receive the gifts you actually want – simply publish your wedding list at confetti.co.uk. Our gift shop – the best on the web – offers all sorts, from the ordinary to the outlandish and from large to small. You'll find it incredibly easy to use and with suppliers including Liberty, Bodum, Mufti and The Wedding List Co, you'll be spoilt for choice. And if you register with us, you could win £1,000 worth of gifts as well as receiving a free copy of our booklet 'Weddings Made Simple' – which could bring you the best gift of all: a perfect, stress free wedding.

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KING OF THE PUB

PUB QUIZZES WILL BE A BREEZE AFTER YOU'VE READ OUR GUIDE TO IQ, TRIVIA TESTS AND ALL MANNER OF ONLINE BRAIN-TEASERS. NEVER BUY A DRINK AGAIN, CHAMP!

THE INTERNET IS THE MODERN EQUIVALENT OF the library of Alexandria, said to have burned down during the reign of Julius Caesar taking with it records of pretty much everything anyone knew at the time. Now, thankfully, we have a store of knowledge that can resist a chance meeting with a Swan Vesta. Imagine how useful it could be as a reference point for a game of *Trivial Pursuit*...

To that end, *the net* wanted to know if we could become a Pub Quiz champion, by timing how long it would take us to use search engines to find the answers to a tricky set of questions. Then we put the questions to the cleverest man in Britain – Kevin Ashman, *Mastermind* winner in 1995 and Radio 4's *Brain of Britain* champ in 1996. Victories over past winners of the radio show recently saw him crowned with the illustrious title of the UK's 'Top Brain'. And he's done it all without ever surfing the Net, or watching *EastEnders*.

To see how we did against the human encyclopedia, turn the page, where you'll also find our guide to all the online IQ tests, trivia quizzes and interactive personality profiles you'll ever need!

ONLINE QUIZZES

THE QUIZ *the net* v Britain's Top Brain, Kevin Ashman

Under strict test conditions, *the net* used two search engines – Google (**www.google.com**) and HotBot (**www.hotbot.com**) – plus some specialist sites to find the answers to 15 quiztastic questions culled from Imperial College's *University Challenge* site (**www.icparc.ic.ac.uk/~cahn/UC/UC.html**). Let battle commence!

1. What is the highest number on a roulette wheel?
Answer: 36
*How we found it: we had to click through four gambling sites via HotBot, before finding the answer at the Web site of Christchurch Casino, New Zealand, of all places (**www.chchcasino.co.nz/tables/roulette.htm**).*
Time taken: four minutes

2. On which island in Paris is Notre Dame situated?
Answer: Ile de la Cité
*How we found it: a search for 'Notre Dame' on the Lonely Planet site (**www.lonelyplanet.co.uk**) soon took us to an informative history of Paris.*
Time taken: two minutes

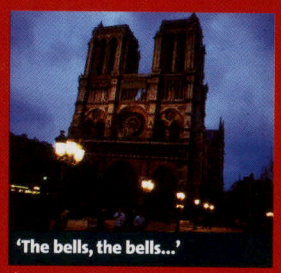
3. On which island is Noel Coward buried?
Answer: Jamaica
How we found it: a Google search for "'Noel Coward" + buried' located the answer straightaway.
Time taken: 30 seconds

4. What is unique about the wrybill, a New Zealand plover? (That's a bird, by the way.)
Answer: its right-curved bill
How we found it: Google again – every mention of the word 'wrybill' is followed by a description of its curvy beak.
Time taken: 30 seconds

5. Margereta-Gertruida Zelle was an exotic dancer shot for espionage in World War I. Who was she better known as?
Answer: Mata Hari
How we found it: a bit of cheating. The name produced no hits on Google or HotBot, but we could only think of one WWI spy – Ms Hari – and a search gave her real name.
Time taken: four minutes

6. What birds' nests are traditionally used to make Bird Nest Soup?
Answer: swiftlets (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*)
How we found it: Google took us to a Thai page, where we learned more than we needed about this 'delicacy'. It's made out of bird spit, you know.
Time taken: two minutes

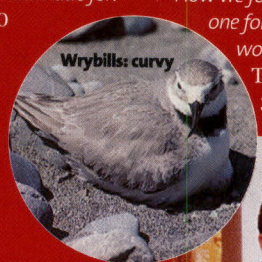
7. In which opera does the heroine work in a cigarette factory?


'The bells, the bells...'

Answer: *Carmen*
How we found it: 'Opera + cigarette' on HotBot brought up Carmen *without a problem.*
Time taken: 30 seconds

8. What are the only mammals that can fly?
Answer: bats
How we found it: 'mammal + fly' gave tons of bat sites.
Time taken: 30 seconds

9. In the hit show, *The Waltons*, what was grandpa's first name?
Answer: Zeb
How we found it: TV trivia is what the Web was made for!
Time taken: 30 seconds


Wrybills: curvy

10. What organisation was founded by Peter Benenson?
Answer: Amnesty International
How we found it: HotBot lets you search by name – and immediately brought up a dozen Amnesty sites.
Time taken: 30 seconds

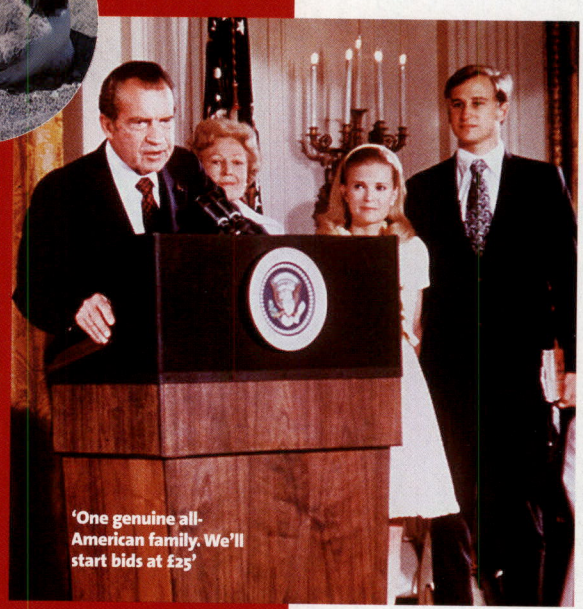
11. Which actress's mum was murdered in *Psycho*'s shower scene? (Name of the daughter required, but bonus for mum.)
Answer: Jamie Lee Curtis (daughter of Janet Leigh)
How we found it: searched for Psycho *on the mighty IMDB (**www.imdb.com**), read the plot summary for the character's name and clicked on the actress's biography.*
Time taken: four minutes

12. In which US sitcom are the major characters regularly seen in the Café Nervosa?
Answer: *Frasier*
How we found it: a simple search for 'café nervosa'...
Time taken: 30 seconds

13. Which city's airport has the code YYZ?
Answer: Lester B. Pearson Airport, Toronto
How we found it: 'YYZ + airport' brought up a wealth of Toronto-related pages.
Time taken: 30 seconds

14. Which is the only US state flag to contain the Union Jack?
Answer: Hawaii
*How we found it: this was a good candidate for a category search on a portal. Yahoo! US took us to **www.law.ou.edu/stflag.html**. It was a choice of viewing Alabama to Missouri or Montana to Wyoming. We guessed right.*
Time taken: three minutes

15. What does the 'M' stand for in Richard M. Nixon?
Answer: Milhouse
How we found it: another easy one for any search engine worth its salt.
Time taken: 30 seconds


'One genuine all-American family. We'll start bids at £25'

THE RESULTS

We got them all correct, but it took a hefty 25 minutes – and that was after a careful study of our guide to search engines on page 148. Kevin Ashman scored 14 out of 15 (he'd never heard of Café Nervosa). However, he managed the test in an amazing three minutes. So sneak a laptop into your next pub quiz – but if you come up against Kevin in the quick-fire round, say your prayers!

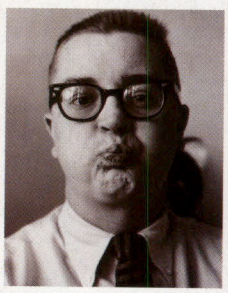
PERSONALITY PROFILES ONLINE

What kind of person are you?

You see a copy of *Cosmopolitan* on your girlfriend's coffee table. Do you: a) flick through interestedly looking for fashion tips; b) check out the latest hairdos; or c) go straight to the 'Is your lover up to the job?' quiz and see how you rate?

Anyone not choosing the latter may want to go back and answer the question honestly this time. Everyone else can rush for their modem, because the Web is home to dozens of sites where you can see how you rate as a person and whether there's need for 'personal growth'.

A great place to start is the marvellous **www.cosmo.women.com**, packed with all those 'Ditch that zero and get a hero' and 'Mr Right, or Mr Flight' quizzes. And for a slightly more



The quiz then transfers you to a dating agency

serious approach, the Internet is awash with personality-testing companies all seeking to sell their unique way of predicting whether a future employee is going to murder the boss's kids or make the company a mint, depending on whether they like beige carpets or not.

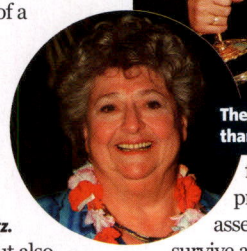
The good news is, there are many free profile tests that will soon put you right if you thought you knew yourself. One of the quickest is at **www.kyko-profile.com**, which asks you to pick 25 words that describe you. Once these are honed down to 10, you get a detailed description of your personality.

A more detailed, and well-respected, test (in this field, anyway) can be found at **www.keirsey.com**. Answer 70 questions and you are rewarded with a detailed profile. A very similar test can be found at **www.smartq.com**.

If you fancy having your time all over again you could try **www.myfuture.com** to find out which career you are most suited to, although be warned: this site seems mostly to be concerned with trying to get you to sign up for the armed services.

If you want a real laugh at some psycho-babble, go to **www.crosstraits.com**, which even gives users a square, graph-like representation of the influences in their personality and how buying a couple of books and videos would help so much. On a more helpful – and free – note,

WORDS: SEAN HARGRAVE; PICTURES: STEVE ORINO, PA, KOBAL COLLECTION, HULTON GETTY, CENTRAL TV, LIAISON, ARDEA. 'BILLY BOB' TEETH FROM WWW.SILLYJOKES.CO.UK. THANKS TO THE ABERCORN PUB, TEDDINGTON



The brothers thanked mum

www.gaincontrol.com will not only give you a full-blown profile of who you are and what motivates you, it emails a rundown of what sort of a person and lover you are. While the missive is winging its way to you, the quiz transfers you to a dating site and starts trying to set you up with similar single women or men. How kind.

If all this profiling is starting to get a little heavy, try out the hugely entertaining, link-packed ***www.brainblitz.com***. The site not only offers IQ tests but also has a raft of personality tests, including one that rates how jealous a person you are, judged by responses to hypothetical situations.

A similar hub site, ***www.universityoflife.com***, addresses many of life's vital issues, such as what sort of a 'soup person' you are and whether you are as good at typing as you think.

Similarly, ***www.pressanykey.com*** finds a new hook on personality profiling in one of its many sections, assessing whether visitors would survive a shipwreck judged on what they would take on a life raft with them. It also has 'Densa' IQ tests, designed to trip up users by asking how many pairs of animals Moses let in on the Ark. The answer is, of course, none; *Noah* built the Ark, doofus.

Also on the entertaining, yet still serious side, look up ***www.colorquiz.com***, which tells visitors all about their personalities by the order in which they pick a grid of 10 colours twice in a row.

Another more unusual profiling site, ***www.maninthemoon.com***, offers detailed personality tests based on which graphic image you select on its home page before delving further in to the rest of its pages. You can cheat, though: leave the cursor over the graphic and it tells you what type of person is assigned to each image.

For something a little more mystical, enter your name and birthday at ***www.numberquest.com/numerology*** and you are rewarded with a detailed list of numbers that represent you in many areas of your life – an entertaining enough way to spend a wet Sunday afternoon.

THE EXPERTS: PERSONALITY TESTS

Susan Quilliam is a top UK relationships psychologist. So what does our agony aunt make of her online competitors?

■ The 'What's Your Personality?' test is at ***www.gaincontrol.com/personality.htm***. Take it online and wait for a personality assessment to be emailed to you. Among its searching questions are:

When you go to a party or social gathering, you...

(a) Make a loud entrance so everyone notices you.
(b) Make a quiet entrance, looking around for someone you know.
(c) Make the quietest entrance, trying to stay unnoticed.

When talking to people, you...

(a) Stand with your arms folded.
(b) Have your hands clasped.
(c) Have one or both your hands on your hips.
(d) Touch or push the person to whom you are talking.
(e) Play with your ear, touch your chin, or smooth your hair.

Susan: 'This quiz claims to analyse your personality with questions like "What's your favourite colour?" It's quick to do but the items are suspect – the body language questions, for example, don't take into account that non-verbal signals are dependent on context and mood, not just personality. However, I was charmed by the speedy-return email "analysis" which suggested I was "lively, charming and the centre of attention" – but as I'd answered the quiz purporting to be an introvert, I was unconvinced by its diagnostic accuracy!'

■ The 'Are You Lazy in Love?' test is part of the massive US *Cosmopolitan* site at ***cosmo.women.com/cos/you/quiz/ooquiz11.htm***. You can take it – question by question – online, or email it to friends. Questions include:

A barely-legal babe starts talking to your man at a bash. You:

a) Head straight to the bar on the other side of the room so that you don't seem like a nag.
b) Tell your boy it's time to split.
c) Casually put your arm around your man so the jailbait gets the point.

The best word to describe you when you don't get your way is:

a) Screamer: you make sure it's clear that he has pissed you off.
b) Speaker: you calmly and rationally bring up what's got you down.
c) Steamer: you bottle things up and quietly suffer until things blow over.

Susan: 'This is a fun quiz based on sound assertiveness theory, which says that all interaction can be aggressive, passive or constructive. The scenario questions – such as "What do you do if it's been eight days and no sex..." – all give three possible responses and it's obvious which are supposed to be 'wrong' and which are 'right'. Its usefulness lies not in analysis – although mine accurately diagnosed my responses as "constructive" – but in teaching the user by making her wince in horrified recognition of unhelpful patterns. But user-friendly it's not – each question has to be separately submitted: time-consuming and frustrating in the extreme!'

■ Susan's latest book, *Love Coach*, is

out now at £5.59 from Amazon (***www.amazon.co.uk***). You can try her own questionnaire at the book's Web site, ***www.thelovecoach.com***.

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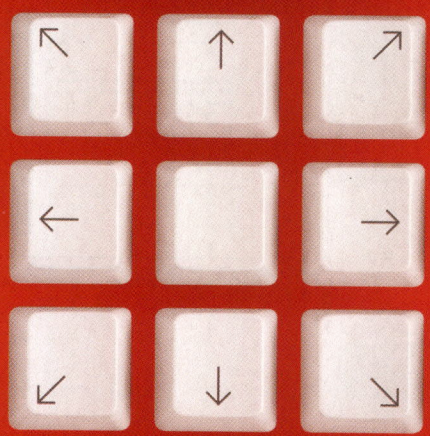

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IQ ON THE WEB

Rate your intelligence level

Your Intelligence Quotient is that magic figure that puts a number on how brainy you are.

Although the harsh Darwinian principles of everyday life reward those who can split a restaurant bill between five and still take into account 'we didn't have rice and you had a cocktail', IQ tests do at least rate your mental agility for thinking logically, clearly and quickly.

The majority of the tests are centred on looking at a series of shapes, numbers and words and getting participants to predict what the next in the list should be. Before finding out whether you are mentally fit enough to take Mensa's 30-minute IQ test at ***www.mensa.org*** (which does not guarantee you membership whatever your score – see test below), it is a good idea to get a hook

Your IQ puts a number on how brainy you are

on the format for these things. Then, when you're finally ready for the mental equivalent of the Olympics, your mind should be well exercised.

Talking of which, the people that host the Mind Sports Olympiad every year in London host a fantastic site at ***www.msoworld.com*** that is updated every Wednesday with a new Mensa IQ test. It is also brimming with creative thinking puzzles and games to flex the grey matter.

Another good place to start is ***www.queendom.com***, which might sound like a top-shelf magazine but is actually packed with mind-stretching exercises that rate your IQ.

A similar site, ***www.brain.com/tests***, is very good at letting you test your IQ with interesting exercises, including games that measure a visitor's attention span and memory retention. You can also compare your test results with, for instance, people who drive the same car or do the same sports and leisure activities as you.

There are so many different, yet fairly similar, IQ tests available online that all of those in the panel (left) are worth a visit on your mental circuit training workout. However, bear in mind that some of the longer-named sites are run by keen amateurs, so it's worth checking whether they offer instant results or require users to await an email that could take a couple of days to arrive.

When you've finally tired of staring at three-dimensional patterns and lists of prime numbers, why not spend a minute exploring another side of yourself at ***www.utne.com/azEQ.tmpl***? Here you can test your Emotional Quotient – or EQ – rather than your Intelligence Quotient. This somewhat dubious questionnaire rates you out of 200 by asking some obvious questions about your emotional maturity, based on how you'd behave in a set of hypothetical situations.

Who knows, you might even find you're a certified grown-up. Now that *would* be scary.

Putting a brain back together was trickier than it looked

MORE IQ TESTS

Not had enough yet?

- ***www.iqtest.com***
- ***www.majon.com/testprep***
- ***www.puzz.com***
- ***www.eskimo.com/~miyaguch***
- ***www.globalnode.com/users/stevenr***
- ***www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/1641/iq/html***
- ***www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/3074/iqtest***
- ***www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/4417/index.html***

'Er, two plus two... hold on...'

THE EXPERTS: IQ & EQ TESTS

Ivan Robertson is Professor of Occupational Psychology at UMIST. Could the online IQ tests pose a challenge for the prof?

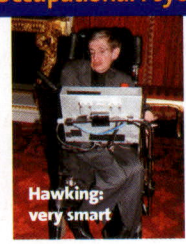
■ The Mensa Workout test at ***www.mensa.org/workout.html*** comes from the organisation for clever people. You have half an hour to answer 30 questions, which include:

1. Sally likes 225 but not 224; she likes 900 but not 800; she likes 144 but not 145. Which does she like:
1600 or 1700?

2. What is the number that is one half of one quarter of one tenth of 400? 2, 5, 8, 10, 40

3. If it were two hours later, it would be half as long until midnight as it would be if it were an hour later. What time is it now?
a) 18:30 b)20:00 c) 21:00 d)22:00 e) 23:30

Ivan: 'The instructions are very careful to say it's not an IQ test and won't qualify or disqualify you for Mensa. However, the questions are challenging. I did it in 10 minutes and scored 20/30 and was told that I'd have a good chance of passing the Mensa test. It's good that you get all the answers right after you've submitted your entry.'



Hawking: very smart

Answers: 1) 1600 2) 5 3) 21:00

■ Brain.com (***www.brain.com***) features a five-minute IQ test. You select the most appropriate word to complete each short sentence. Questions include:

1. The fire engines arrived at the scene on a) call b) delay c) the double d) the highway e) time

2. It is rather _____ her deposition is true. a) allegorical b) doubtful c) illegal d) suspicious e) unfair

3. The virtuous will never _____ to vile baseness. a) commit b) escape c) react d) stoop e) strive

Ivan: 'This is again careful to say that it'll give you a general indication of your IQ rather than a precise reading. The questions are good and you have to think about them. When I got my results I was in the top three per cent. Overall, the site is a nice mix of serious and fun stuff and by the end, I found it compulsive.'

Answers: 1) c 2) b 3) d

■ At ***www.queendom.com***, Professor Robertson did the EIQ test which evaluate aspects of your 'emotional intelligence'. Questions are along the lines of the following:

1. When I feel crappy, I don't know what or who is upsetting me.
a) Most of the time b) Often c) Sometimes d) Rarely e) Almost never

Brain.com: mid-market

Ivan: 'I became more and more worried about this one the further I got into it. I filled out the EIQ test at random and the report it sent back said I was "emotionally disturbed and that I had a negative affect on people around me". It was appalling. Even if my EIQ was low, I should not be given potentially damaging feedback in this way. And all the time I was clicking around, invites to take part in polls about my sex life flashed up. If Mensa is broadsheet and Brain.com is a mix of tabloid and broadsheet, Queendom is sub-tabloid.'

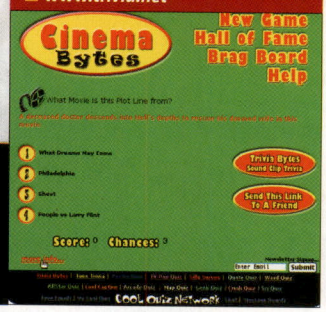
■ Professor Ivan Robertson is co-author of *The Psychology of Personnel Selection*, on sale at ***www.amazon.co.uk*** at £16.95

'Lager top? I'll order it online!'

MORE TRIVIA

Work that brain!

- www.familygames.com
- www.quizsite.com
- www.tunetrivia.com
- www.jamba.co.uk
- www.mapquiz.com
- www.geekquiz.com
- www.cinemabytes.com
- www.triviabytes.com
- play.triviagames.com/quiz
- www.thewebstop.com/contest
- www.trivia.net



THE QUIZ SITES

Interactive pub quizzes

People love *Trivial Pursuit* and television quiz shows, so it's no surprise trivia quizzes abound on the Internet. Arguably the best site is ***www.planet-trivia.com***, which not only lets you compete against real Net users live, it also allows visitors to complete a quiz then send it to a friend as a greetings card. After they've completed it, the site reveals who did best.

If you do well in a live quiz you stand the chance of winning prize money, at sites like ***www.uproar.com***, which also has live bingo and puzzle competitions. And for a wide range of quizzes on British subjects, ***www.quiz.co.uk*** is hard to beat. It offers dozens of rounds on subjects as diverse as kids, history, myths and world leaders.

There is no marking facility, so it is down to your own honesty. Alternatively, there is the excellent ***www.educators.co.uk/trivia.html***, where the score you receive for a correct answer decreases as you ponder on an answer. No matter what you score, you still seem to get the opportunity to give the site your email address to be entered for a prize draw, so maybe think twice before risking putting your name on yet more junk mail lists.

Questions are then emailed to you in numerical code

The ageing Carolgees tried one last comeback

Similarly, ***usefulinfo.co.uk/trivia.htm*** is worth checking out for its quizzes that focus on British trivia, as is ***www.bfbentertainment.freeserve.co.uk***.

But if you want to be *really* clever, there is the intriguing Cipher Quiz at ***www.total.net/~cipher/cyber.htm*** in which the questions are emailed to you daily in numerical code. They can be unravelled by working out what words the numbers would form if tapped out on a phone keypad, ie if entered on a mobile as an SMS. If you are clever enough to figure out the question, you then need the tricky part: the answer.

Anybody who finds some of these a bit highbrow can reassure themselves that all that time on the sofa really has been in preparation for the next mental Olympiad by visiting ***www.quizland.com***. Forget world leaders and longest-river-in-Chile questions, this site gets to what really matters: it's packed with quizzes devoted to *South Park*, *Friends* and the like.

To finish off the loafer's guide to checking out how one's intelligence has been maximised by couch potato television viewing and magazine reading, check out ***www.babe-test.com***. While the names of some of those American bikini-clad beauties will not be too familiar, you can seek comfort in that you have a one in four chance of guessing right – as if correct answers

THE EXPERTS: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Kevin Ashman takes two online trivia quizzes. Will Britain's Top Brain be stumped by the cyber-quizmasters?

■ The 'Pot Luck' quiz at ***www.quiz.co.uk*** describes itself as giving everyone 'an equal chance'. It can be taken online, with answers revealed one at a time by clicking a link. The 25 questions include:

1. Where in the body is the labyrinth?
2. Americans call it a faucet. What do the British call it?
3. What is the unit of currency in Poland?
4. What is measured on the Beaufort scale?
5. If an American footballer talked about 'zippers', what would he mean?

Kevin: 'This was a fine all-round general quiz. There was a good mix of straightforward questions and ones that have you scratching your head – exactly how they bill it. The only problem was I thought the questions may have been written in a rush because they were slightly clumsily worded, which always makes you think the questioner is trying to catch you out – although I don't think they are in this case. There was only one I couldn't get – the one about American football.'

Answers:
1) The ear
2) A tap
3) The Zloty
4) Wind velocity
5) Scars

No-one else could see Jim's special friends

■ The connections quiz from BFB Entertainment – 'Wolverhampton's finest quizmaster' – is at ***www.quizzes.btinternet.co.uk***. The quiz needs to be downloaded and printed out, meaning that someone will have to act as a quizmaster.

1) Who was the 41st president of the USA ?
2) Where according to tradition was Sir Francis Drake playing bowls when he was warned of the impending invasion by the Spanish Armada?
3) Who was the Wolverhampton Wanderers footballer who made 49 appearances for England between the years of 1955 and 1966?
4) Which fictional detective was created by Dashiell Hammett?
5) What name is given to the process by which the world's atmosphere is becoming continually warmer?
6) What is the connection between these 5 answers?

Kevin: 'This is billed as being 'fun for all the family' and I think it lives up to that very well. I like the way there is a connection between the answers – it means you can go back and make educated guesses. I thought the questions were all between difficult and easy, so it is apt for a family quiz, although not too challenging for anyone with a very good level of general knowledge. The only one I couldn't get was the footballer one – presumably his name is garden-related. I should be able to make a guess, but I just can't think.'

Answers:
1) George Bush
2) Plymouth Hoe
3) Ron Flowers
4) Sam Spade
5) Greenhouse Effect
6) They all include gardening terms.

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india 40p

germany 7p

france 7p

australia 6p

usa 4p

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prestophone's ever vigilant price patrol ensures that you'll enjoy ***savings of up to 83% on international calls and 55% on national calls.*** What's more, because it's a ***web-based service*** you'll enjoy the convenience of running your account online. ***prestophone's*** free to join and is ***just a click away.***

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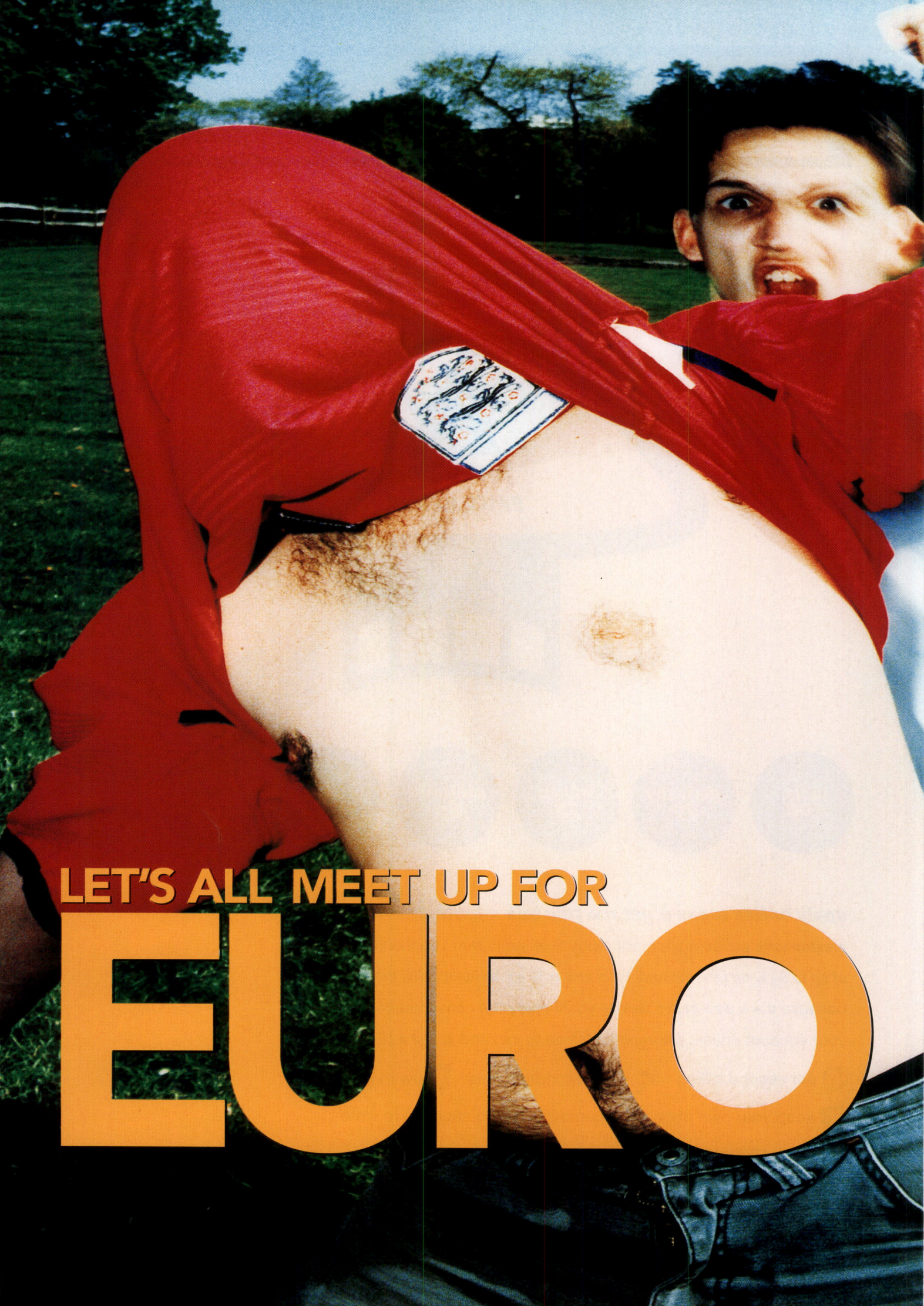
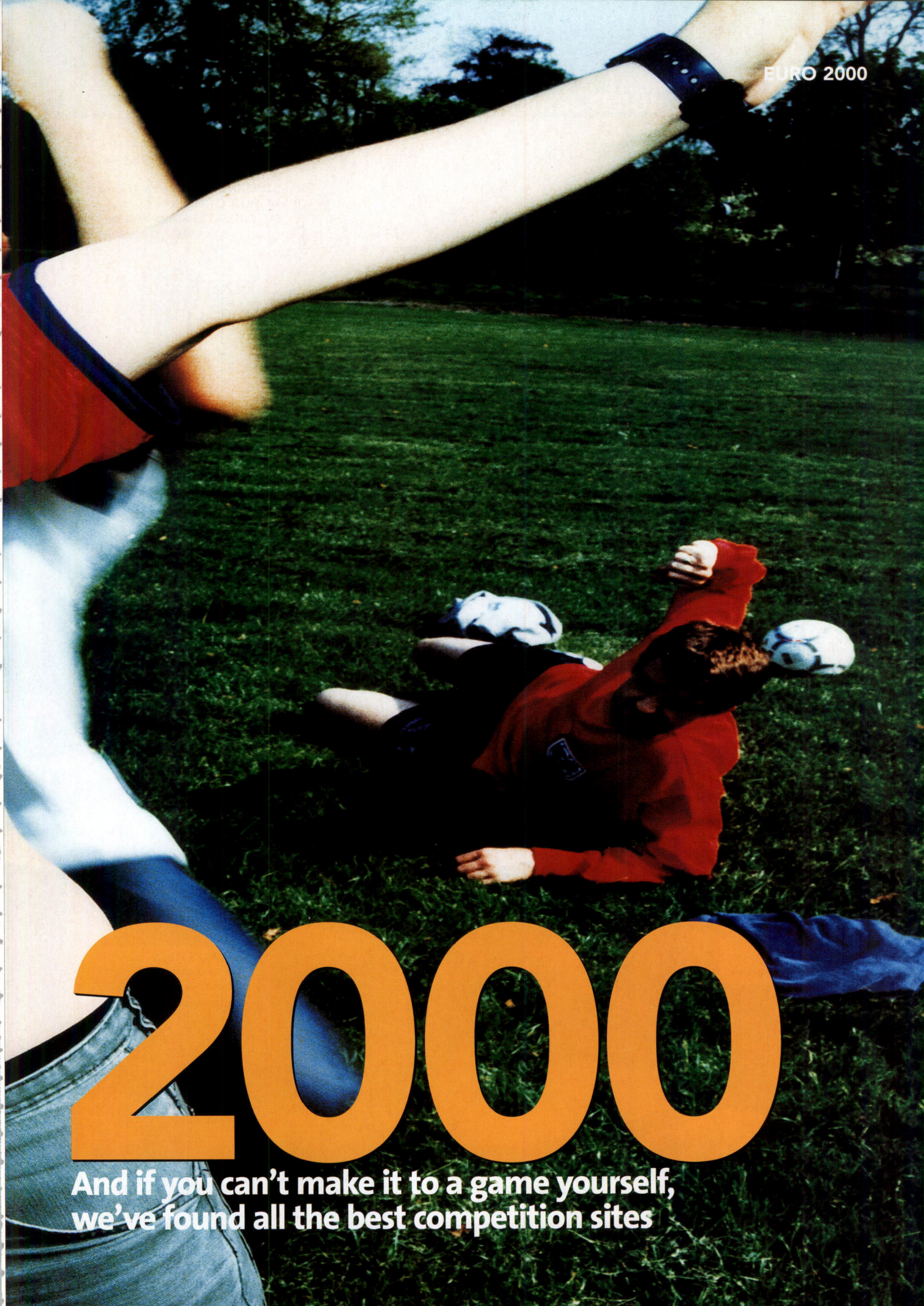
*Savings based on BT's peak standard rates before discounts/promotions. Prices effective from 17th March 2000. Rates include VAT. Calls charged per second after first 30 seconds. Rates are charged in pence units. Above rates available to customers opening a prepaid supersaver account, with £30.00 and over and on any subsequent top up of £30.00 and over. The above rate of Internet access only applies to our ISP. All telecommunications services are provided by Viatel Communications (UK) Ltd, division of Viatel. The service is only available to UK residents aged 18 or over.


LET'S ALL MEET UP FOR
EURO



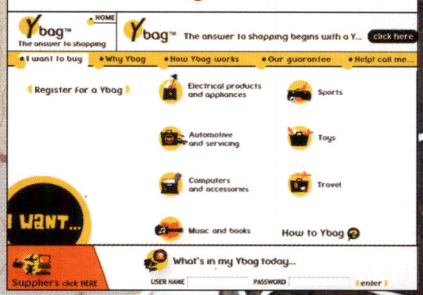
2000

And if you can't make it to a game yourself, we've found all the best competition sites

AND WE SHALL BUILD JERUSALEM The ultimate Euro 2000 viewing environment, all bought online!

MALIBU FOOTBALL GOAL £13.95
ARGOS *www.argos.co.uk*

HOTPOINT RS64X FRIDGE
£175 (including VAT) *www.ybag.com*
(Supplied by Garland Electronics.)
Ybag works by putting you, the customer, in touch with a shop which can provide the goods you want.
You can win this fridge – and the lager in it – by going to *the net*'s Web site at the *www.thenetnow.co.uk* and emailing us the answer to the following question: What alcoholic strength is Stella Artois?



FOOTBALL BOOKS
Alex Ferguson *Managing my life* £15.19
John Barnes *John Barnes* £13.59
AMAZON *www.amazon.co.uk*

DREAMCAST FOOTBALL GAMES
UEFA Striker (27.50), **Virtua Striker 2** (£29.50)
Sega Worldwide Soccer (£29.99)
THESLAMMER.COM *www.theslammer.com*

SEGA DREAMCAST £175.38
SOFTWARE PARADISE
www.softwareparadise.co.uk

Can it really be four years since football came home? Four years since Wembley Stadium reverberated to the sound of thousands upon thousands of England fans singing Baddiel and Skinner's Euro 96 song; since Stuart 'Psycho' Pearce exorcised the ghosts of Italia 90 by scoring in a penalty shoot-out against Spain; since Gareth Southgate had a pizza commercial made about him?

Yes, football fever is about to sweep the nation again as Kevin Keegan leads his men into battle. If Euro 2000 is about to take over your life for a month, the Internet will feed your passion. Short of showing you the games, it has everything you could ever need.

But if you're Scottish, you may want to look away now.

Follow it all on the Web

As you would imagine, the Web has come alive with a mass of sites dedicated to the summer's biggest sporting event. We've sorted the star names from the fringe players to offer you the best in Euro 2000 Internet coverage. We've even rated their chances, taking into account form, strengths and the design of the sites...

GROUP ONE

THE ENTERTAINERS

These excellent sites take the online coverage of football that little bit further.

Eurofinals365

www.eurofinals365.com

FORM Very strong indeed and managed by Football365, one of the most respected names in football Web sites.

STRENGTHS 'Being there' section is fantastic for anyone travelling to any of the games. Send Euro 2000 postcards to your friends.

PREDICTION Last 8.

Q&A DAVE WATSON

Dave Watson played for England with Kevin Keegan in the 1980 Euro Championship. He has won 65 caps.

How did you find Euro 80?
It was a whole new experience for the group of players I was with. We won one, drew one and lost one – and Germany went on to win it.

And how do you think England will fare this time?
I think they have got as good a chance as anyone. It's all about performing over there. It's about team effort which has been lacking – not so much in the last couple of games but certainly before that. Kevin seems to have a good spirit going now.

Who else will do well?
They say Germany are playing poorly but they will be there or thereabouts. Spain are a good side but always seem to underachieve. I'd like to see them do well because they have some very good players.

Who would form your England line-up?
I'd go for David Seaman, Sol Campbell, Tony Adams, Gary Neville, Phil Neville, David Beckham, Paul Ince, Paul Scholes, Jason Wilcox, Alan Shearer and Michael Owen.

Thanks to Sportal at ***www.sportal.co.uk***

Footballunlimited

www.footballunlimited.co.uk

FORM Excellent home form but not tested internationally. Also not showing much specific preparation for the tournament.

STRENGTHS *The Fiver* is the site's daily digest of football news. There will be a special edition throughout Euro 2000 and you can have it emailed to you.

PREDICTION Last 8.

Eurofootball.com

www.eurofootball.com

FORM Newcomer to the arena. No form to speak of as Euro 2000 will be its first competition. Big-name players and managers on-site.

STRENGTHS As the name suggests, this is a site dedicated to football across the Continent – which is bound to be an advantage. Features online shopping area and fantasy football.

PREDICTION Last 8.

Eurosport

www.eurosport.com

FORM Always developing and has a very strong content, based around its television coverage.

'Take the bag off now, Gareth'

'Make a twat out of your uncle Terry again, son, and it's curtains'

STRENGTHS Live match reports and video highlights of the games. A 'virtual nightclub' will allow you to discuss games and vote for your favourites to be shown again.

PREDICTION Beaten finalist.

GROUP TWO

STATS AND INFORMATION

The pages that'll ensure you're armed to the teeth with information to settle all of those arguments you're bound to have in the pub.

Sporting Life

www.sportinglife.com

FORM Completely revamped site with new-look

WORDS: PAUL WINSLOW; PICTURES: STEVE ORINO, EMPICS

face it, your boss is a tosser.

start treating him like one.

don't work // **play games**

download the best computer games for free at

freeloader.com

'Way-ay lads! Wasn't I magic just n... glmpph!'

formation. Has awesome strength in depth.
STRENGTHS Nearly 400 player profiles for those likely to be involved in the tournament. Excellent TV guides for planning your viewing.
PREDICTION Semi-finalist.

EURO 2000

www.euro2000.org

FORM Red hot. The official site has been on great form for over a year and sold tickets to the finals online. The equivalent of the home team.
STRENGTH Team profiles are phenomenal and take some beating. There's also a great history from previous tournaments.
PREDICTION Champions!

Euro Championship 2000

www.ec-2000.com

FORM Something of an unknown quantity for domestic fans, but has good knowledge of the game abroad after managing the World Soccer Page site.
STRENGTH Simple, no-frills coverage of the tournament – great when you just want to know the basics.
PREDICTION Last 16.

Teamtalk

www.teamtalk.com

FORM Made a good transfer from the world of premium phonelines. Left Euro 2000 preparation late – no features until the end of May.
STRENGTHS You can listen to premium phone call messages for free on the site. Profiles and stats and a fan's eye view of the tournament, brought to you by their on-the-spot journalist.
PREDICTION Last 8.

Flags: blurry

GROUP C

THE NEWS GROUP

For a month, Euro 2000 will probably create more news stories than the average year in Parliament. Don't miss a trick with this lot.

Sportal

www.sportal.co.uk

FORM Has sister sites in all the top European nations, which should offer invaluable experience and knowledge. Also responsible for the official Euro 2000 site.
STRENGTHS Has connections with players around Europe. Features interviews, games and screensavers.
PREDICTION Semi-finalist.

Soccernet

www.soccernet.com/euro2000

FORM The subject of a huge transfer earlier in the season when it became part of ESPN, but still offers fantastic news coverage.
STRENGTHS Depth of coverage is particularly impressive with features, providing support for the news service and chat rooms.
PREDICTION Last 16.

MatchON.com

www.matchon.com

FORM Only created in March so little time to get its house in order. Good early form, though.
STRENGTHS Offers virtual reconstructions of match action and has brought in top football names to provide expert analysis of the games.
PREDICTION Last 16.

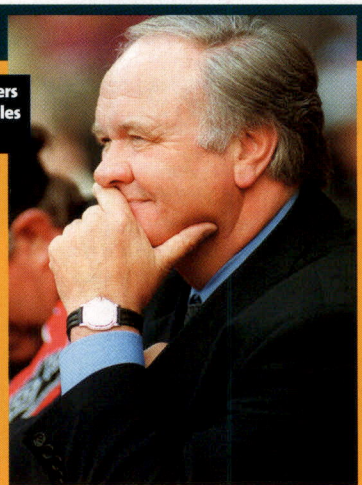
Q&A RON ATKINSON

Ron Atkinson is one of the biggest characters in football and has a distinguished career as a player and a manager. He's now AOL's director of football and commentator.

How do you think England will fare in Euro 2000?
England have got a chance, especially if Shearer and Owen start banging the goals in early on, but there are no easy games in these championships. It would be nice to put one over on the Germans and qualify for the knock-out phase. After that, who knows?

What would be your England team?
All of these players should be included in the squad to give the manager the flexibility to vary his tactics and pick the best team: Seaman, Gary Neville, Adams, Campbell, Phil Neville, Beckham, Scholes, Ince, McManaman, Shearer, Owen, Heskey, Philips, Wilcox and Keown.

Who will win Euro 2000, and who's the player we should watch out for?
There are loads of quality teams in with a shout: reigning world champions France, Spain, the Czechs, the Dutch, and you can never discount Italy or Germany. Yugoslavia, as an outsider, stands a good chance as well. Spain have flattered to deceive in major tournaments for 20 years now. They've got a strong squad and a very healthy domestic competition – and if the likes of Raul can perform then maybe this will be their year. Then again Henry of Arsenal is one to watch if he can take his club form to international level.


Ron ponders lollipop sales figures

In a recent commentary you were heard to say: 'He's sold him a lollipop' and 'He's got his spotter's badge'. Could you translate, please?
Yeah, this is just phraseology. 'He's sold him a lollipop' is what we say when a player tricks another one by putting one foot over the ball and then using the other one; 'He's got his spotter's badge' means a player is using his vision well.

The FA has been using the Net to check the form of opposing teams. How does that differ from how you used to research opposition?
Managers have always used whatever tools and techniques were available, from advances in training techniques and diets, to the development of video and satellite pictures, to the use of walkie-talkies between the manager in the stand and those on the bench. The Net is about communication and information. Managers can talk to scouts around the world, research results and form and watch players on downloaded video.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT AOL?

During Euro 2000, AOL will have live match centres to keep you aware of the score and offer comprehensive details of substitutions, yellow cards and red cards, with live text commentary. There'll also be full profiles of all the squads, players and managers, as well as ground guides to every single venue. You'll have the chance to deposit your thoughts on England's chances on its message boards and you can join fellow members to have a heated debate about the day's action.

Football News

www.footballnews.co.uk

FORM Not the biggest name in football but has been around for a while and quietly got on with the job in an effective manner. Recent transfer activity has seen Des Lynam join the team.
STRENGTHS Versatility is impressive. Beyond news there's also TV listings, betting advice, stats and coverage of the game around the world.
PREDICTION Last 16.

GROUP D

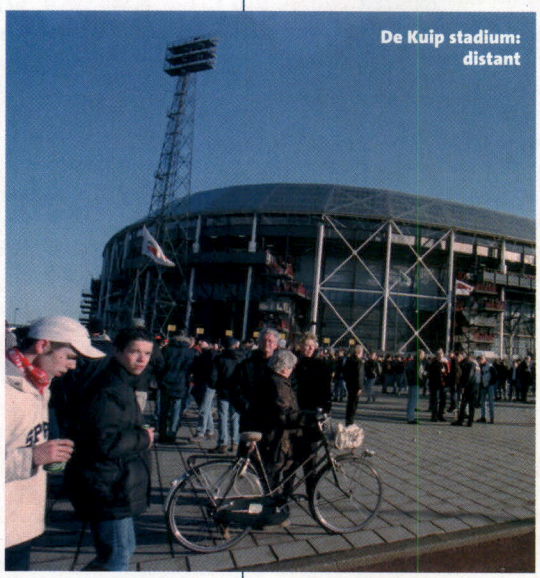
THE MAVERICKS

Not specific football sites, but still places to enhance your enjoyment of the competition.

Scritch's Multilingual Swear List

www.jps.net/scritch/swear.html

FORM Never involved in a tournament of this kind before but could come into its own in this situation. If a Patrick Vieira tackle offends your sensibilities, don't go anywhere near this.
STRENGTHS Shows a particularly impressive knowledge of the European scene. Uses a massive squad of contributors from around the globe.
PREDICTION Last 16.



De Kuip stadium: distant

Totalbet

www.totalbet.com

FORM Very good. Prolific across several sports and recently showed live horse racing with live betting. Has offered online betting for two years.
STRENGTHS Tax of just two per cent; odds for first goalscorer as well as for results. There are tips and advice to help you decide what's worth gambling your money on.
PREDICTION Last 16.

Ebookers

www.ebookers.com

FORM Excellent. Has good pedigree and recently changed its name from Flightbookers without angering its fans. Ideal if you're nipping over to see a game or just to soak up the atmosphere.
STRENGTHS Hotel and flight booking as well, and travel guides to help you find your way around Belgium and Holland.
PREDICTION Last 16.

Sportlist

www.sportlist.com

FORM Fantastic TV listings, covering all the sports you could think of. Although other sites have TV guides to Euro 2000, Sportlist are particularly strong in this area.
STRENGTHS As well as planning your viewing for the tournament, there is a mass of information on other sports coverage so you know what to watch when there isn't a game on.
PREDICTION Last 16.

THE DETAILS

GROUP A

ENGLAND *www.soccernet.com*
GERMANY *www.wco.com/~jdwyer/abseits*
ROMANIA *timisoara.com/soccer.html*
PORTUGAL *www.portuguesesoccer.com*

GROUP B

BELGIUM *www.belgiumsoccer.com*
TURKEY *www.angelfire.com/nj/sivritepe*
ITALY *www.italian-soccer.com*
SWEDEN *www.football-europe.com*

GROUP C

NORWAY *www.unik.no/~larsa/football.htm*
SPAIN *www.soccer-spain.com*
YUGOSLAVIA *fyusoccer.com*
SLOVENIA *www.football-europe.com*

GROUP D

CZECH REPUBLIC *www.fotbal.cz*
DENMARK *world-of-soccer.com*
FRANCE *lesbleus.net*
NETHERLANDS *www.geocities.com/~vhiper*

FIXTURES

SATURDAY JUNE 10
Belgium v Sweden *7.45pm*

SUNDAY JUNE 11
Turkey v Italy *1.30pm*
France v Denmark *5pm*
Netherlands v Czech Rep *7.45pm*

MONDAY JUNE 12
Germany v Romania *5pm*
Portugal v England *7.45pm*

TUESDAY JUNE 13
Spain v Norway *5pm*
Yugoslavia v Slovenia *7.45pm*

WEDNESDAY JUNE 14
Italy v Belgium *7.45pm*

THURSDAY JUNE 15
Sweden v Turkey *7.45pm*

FRIDAY JUNE 16
Czech Rep v France *5pm*
Denmark v Netherlands *7.45pm*

SATURDAY JUNE 17
Romania v Portugal *5pm*
England v Germany *7.45pm*

SUNDAY JUNE 18
Slovenia v Spain *5pm*
Norway v Yugoslavia *7.45pm*

MONDAY JUNE 19
Turkey v Belgium *7.45pm*
Italy v Sweden *7.45pm*

TUESDAY JUNE 20
England v Romania *7.45pm*
Portugal v Germany *7.45pm*

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21
Yugoslavia v Spain *5pm*
Slovenia v Norway *5pm*
Denmark v Czech Rep *7.45pm*
France v Netherlands *7.45pm*

SATURDAY JUNE 24
Quarter-Final *(B2 v A1) 5pm*
Quarter-Final *(B1 v A2) 7.45pm*

SUNDAY JUNE 25
Quarter-Final *(C2 v D1) 5pm*
Quarter-Final *(C1 v D2) 7.45pm*

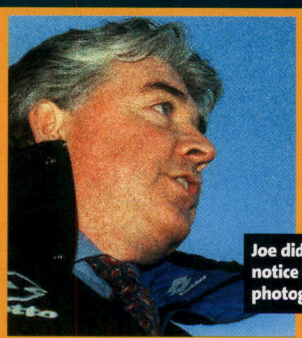
WEDNESDAY JUNE 28
Semi-Final *7.45pm*

THURSDAY JUNE 29
Semi-Final *5pm*

SUNDAY JULY 2
Final *7pm*

Q&A JOE KINNEAR

Joe Kinnear won the UEFA Cup with Tottenham in 1971-72 and had 11 caps for the Republic of Ireland. He is the former manager of Wimbledon and is Eurosport's Euro 2000 analyst (*www.eurosport.com*).



Joe didn't notice the tiny photographer

How do you think England will get on in Euro 2000?
I think they have a chance of winning it. I really think they will make the last four. Injuries play a big part but they are good enough to go all the way. They have a terrific strikeforce but need Kevin Keegan to get the balance right. They have the goalscoring potential in Shearer, Heskey and Owen, to name just a few. Defensively, Adams is back at the right time as well.
Who else do you think will perform well?
You can make cases for a lot of sides but you can make cases against them as well. You've got the World Champions – France – playing, but then players like Didier Deschamps aren't getting any younger. Then there's Holland playing at home. They produce some attractive football but sometimes dominate matches and don't get the result they deserve. I think England, Italy, France and Holland will be the last four.
So if you wanted to do some gambling online, who would you put your money on?
Well, if you look at the odds on the four teams I've mentioned, the lowest are 3-1. So you could put money on those four without fear of losing if any of them won it.
Who would you play up front for England?
I would go with Shearer and Owen, with Cole and Heskey on the bench. Alan Shearer is tried and tested. Michael Owen has scored 12 goals this season but he's had his hamstring injury.
How are you involved with the Internet?
I'm a shareholder in ***MatchON.com*** and write a column every week. I've done interviews with people such as Ferguson and Wenger. I'm also an analyst for Eurosport. How's that?

THE GATEWAY TO GAMES

Gameplay is the number one destination for playing, buying and chatting about games. Our award-winning website features over 3000 games, consoles, accessories, guides and more. All at great prices and all including FREE delivery. You'll also find the largest FREE online gaming network in Europe. Enter the gateway to games at www.gameplay.com.

www.gameplay.com

gameplay

THE GATEWAY TO GAMES

On sale Sat 27 May

WIN TICKETS TO EURO 2000!

Sportal, the official Web site producer of Euro 2000™, is offering readers of *the net* the chance to win a pair of tickets, with travel and accommodation included, to a quarter-final match of the tournament in Brussels. So check your passport is valid and keep 24 June clear in your diary!

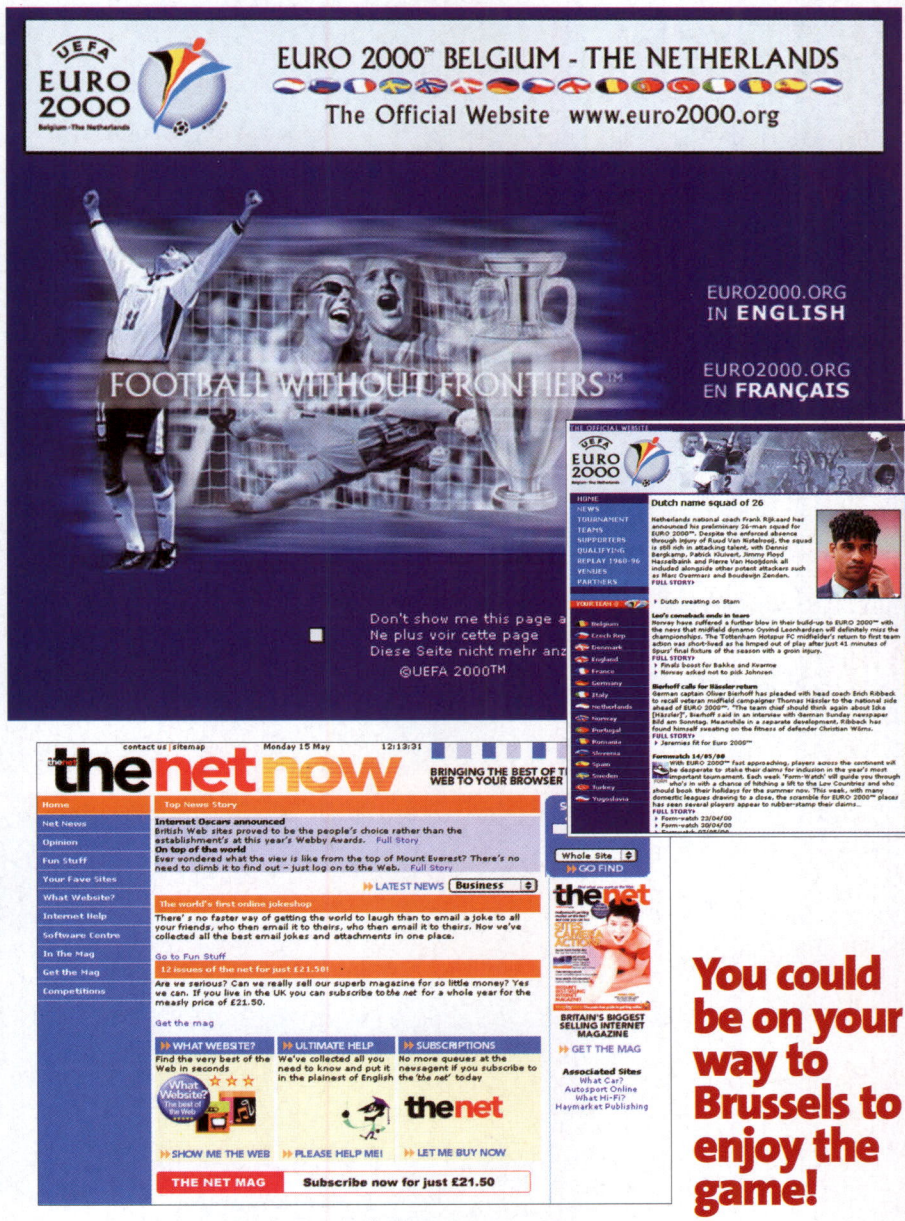
All you have to do to enter is email us the answer to the following question:

Who scored the golden goal in the final to win Euro 96?
A. Jurgen Klinsman
B. Oliver Bierhoff
C. Thomas Kuntz
If you need any help finding the right answer, check out ***www.euro2000.org***

TO ENTER Visit our Web site, ***www.thenetnow.co.uk***, follow the link to ***www.euro2000.org*** and find the answer. Go back to the competition page on our site and email the answer to us – and before you know it you could be on your way to Brussels to enjoy the game! You'll need to be quick, though – we'll be picking a winner on 17 June, so get your entry in before then!

Even if you don't win the tickets to be there in person, you can keep up-to-date with whatever sport's closest to your heart thanks to ***www.sportal.co.uk***.

sportal.co.uk
Official Website Producer
UEFA EURO 2000



You could be on your way to Brussels to enjoy the game!

TERMS & CONDITIONS Closing date for entries is June 16, 2000. Entrants must be resident in the UK. The prizewinner will be chosen from all the correct entries received by 17 June. The prizewinner will be notified within 24 hours of the draw by email to the address they submit with their competition entry on ***www.thenetnow.co.uk***. Employees and their relatives of Sportal.co.uk and Haymarket Publishing are not eligible to enter. No cash alternatives or substitute prizes will be allowed. The competition organisers reserve the right to supply a prize of similar value and specification if the named prize is unavailable. The decision of the organisers is final and no further correspondence will be entered into. Information on the winner will be available within four weeks of the published closing date and will be supplied on receipt of a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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Don't tell me, I like the phone bill to surprise me

☐ I'll stick with my big fat phone bill

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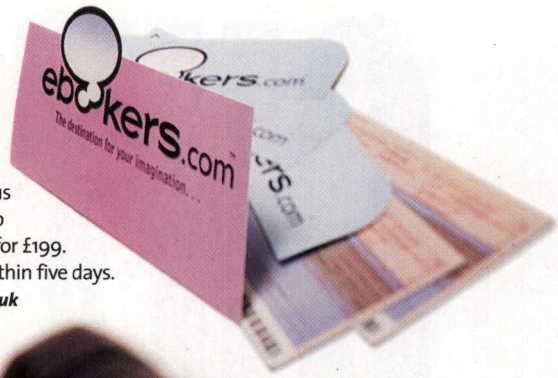
Even better, our customers enjoy a FREE 10 day trial of the PlusNet connection – plus other great offers!.

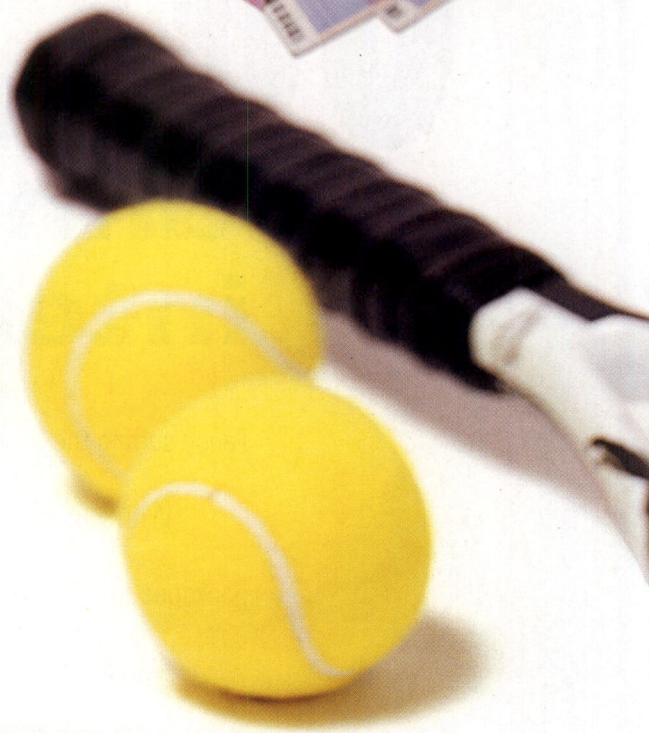
So why not choose the smarter way to connect? To join us now for your free trial, go to **www.plus.net**

plusnet
The smarter way to Internet

BBQ £49.99
A barbecue in Britain is seen by some as an example of wishful thinking, but if you're the optimistic sort then head to ***www.dig-it.co.uk*** for this splendid appliance. Delivery times and charges vary.



Tickets £199
Ebookers sorted us a bargain flight to Catania on Sicily for £199. Tickets arrived within five days. ***www.ebookers.co.uk***



Retail therapy

Just in case the sun decides to show up, there's a few outdoorsy things this month

Tent £60
This 'Verve' tent from Blacks is easy to erect – perfect for escaping the mud at festivals. P&P is free; allow seven working days for delivery. ***www.blacks.co.uk***

Joypad £40
Just in case the sun *is* in hiding, this little gadget will brighten up your PlayStation games. ***www.saitek.com***

Car £22
If your skills aren't needed at Le Mans this year, console yourself with a whizz around the Scalextric track in this rather nifty Mercedes, yours for the bargain price of £22. ***www.scalemodels.co.uk*** delivers within three days, and charges from 85p per car.

Sommelier set £26.44

Don't know your Chardonnay from your Shiraz? Well, look as if you do with this wine kit from ***www.smallislandtrader.com***. Delivery within two weeks; £4.95 p&p.

Spectacle frames £600

Sculpted from materials like mammoth tooth, these are customised for your face – and personality. Dutch craftsman Kees Wennekendonk slaves for three weeks over every pair. ***www.slimbit.nl/occhiali***

Shirts from £40

For some rather smart items of apparel, stop by ***www.designerheaven.com*** for clothes from the likes of John Smedley. Delivery in five days, p&p is free.

Tennis racket £179.99

Tim Henman's very own racket! Well, the same style – and if it's good enough for Tim, it's good enough for you. Check out ***www.slazenger.com***. Goods should be with you in two days, and p&p varies.

THE NET'S TOP TIPS FOR ONLINE SHOPPING

Keep to our simple guidelines, and there's no reason why online shopping should end in a puddle of tears

■ **CHECK THE SITE IS SECURE** A small padlock will appear in the bottom left of your browser to show that you can safely send credit card details through the site. Your Web browser will also tell you whether a site is secure or not when you enter it.

■ **SHOP WITH BRAND-NAME COMPANIES** As with any shopping, you're better off with a company you've actually heard of.

■ **CHECK DELIVERY TIMES AND CHARGES** Companies should tell you the delivery charge if there is one on their site. If you live in the Highlands and Islands or Ireland, you may find that free delivery does not apply.

■ **NEVER SEND ANYTHING BY EMAIL** If a site asks for card details by email, don't oblige. It's far, far easier for emails to be intercepted.

■ **PRINT THE CONTRACT** This is the only permanent record of your purchase, so make sure you keep it, along with your order number and other details. Don't forget: if it's a UK site, you have the same consumer rights as you do in the High Street.

■ **IF IT GOES WRONG, DON'T WORRY** Contrary to scare stories, online shopping is safer and very often cheaper than traditional methods – and it's in the online store's interest to sort any problems out quickly.

PHOTOGRAPHY: NICK WRIGHT

WWW?
WMA?
MP3?
G2?
Tel: 01732 520970
www.thomson-lyra.com
THOMSON

what website?

July 2000

YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO THE BOLDEST, BRASSIEST SITES ON THE NET

BOO BOO BE DOO!

SHOW ME THE SITES...

What Website?

JULY

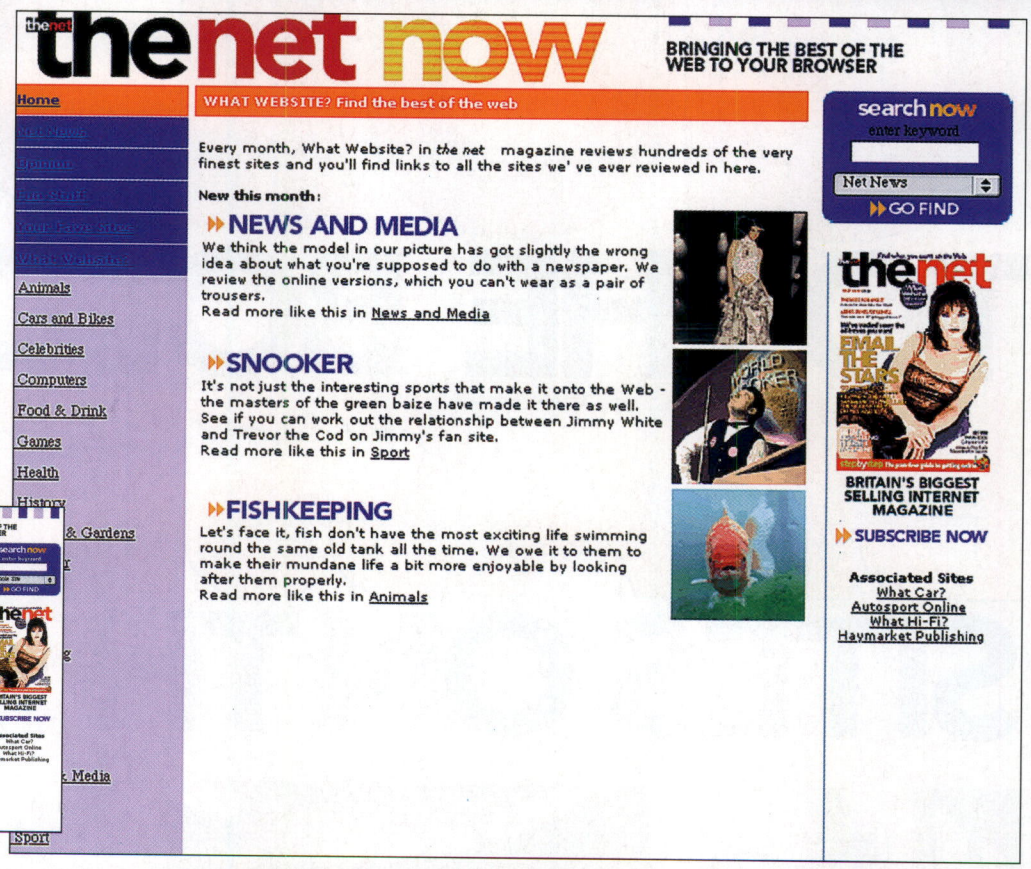
thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

Take two weeks of long, languid days, a few rays of sun and a lot of rain – plus a punnet or two of strawberries – and it must be Wimbledon. To have even the faintest idea of what everyone will be going on about, check out our pick of the tennis sites in What Website...

www.thenetnow.co.uk

EVERY LINK ON ONE GREAT SITE!

Let us take you by the hand and show you, not the streets of London, but our pick of the hottest sites around. Simply type in one address – ***www.thenetnow.co.uk*** – and you'll find speedy connections to all the sites on these pages.



THE FREE SOFTWARE STARTER PACK

THE ULTIMATE HELP BUTTON ***www.thenetnow.co.uk*** All the essential free software reviewed and rated with links

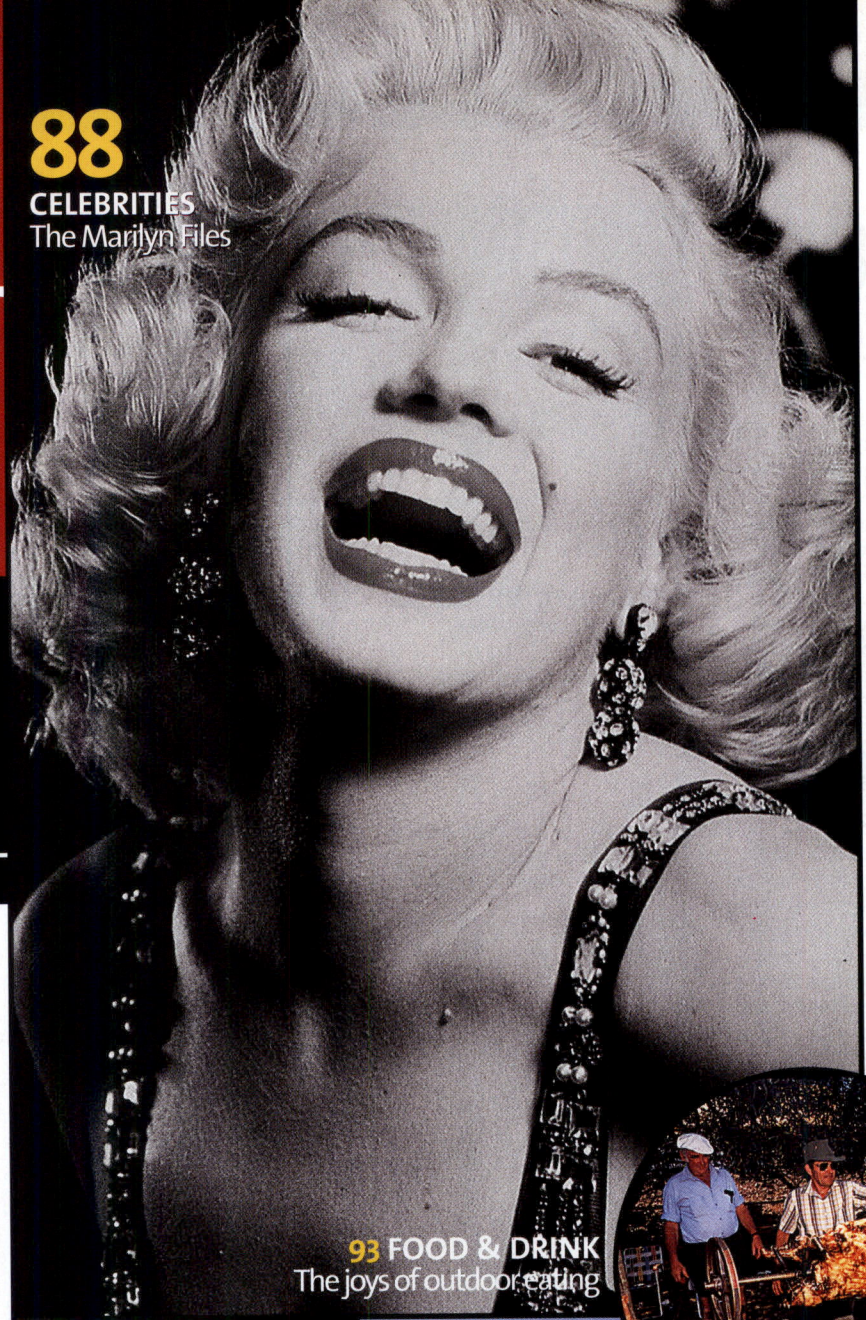
PLAYING MULTI-MEDIA BROWSER WATCH
browserwatch.internet.com/plug-in.html
List of browser plug-ins.

REALPLAYER G2
www.real.com
Cross-platform free software for streaming movie (RealVideo) and audio (RealAudio) files across the Internet.

QUICKTIME 4.0
www.apple.com/quicktime
Version 4 of this multi-media software will play just about anything, including MP3 files.

MICROSOFT MEDIAPLAYER
www.microsoft.com/mediaplayer
Plays streaming audio and video files saved in the MediaPlayer format.

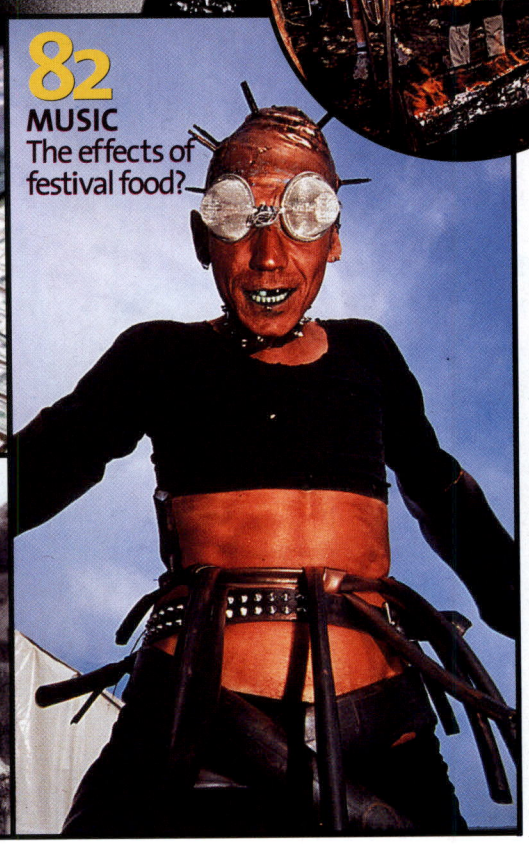
SHOCKWAVE & FLASH
www.shockwave.com
A must-have if you want to enjoy sound, great animation effects and even natty games on Web sites.



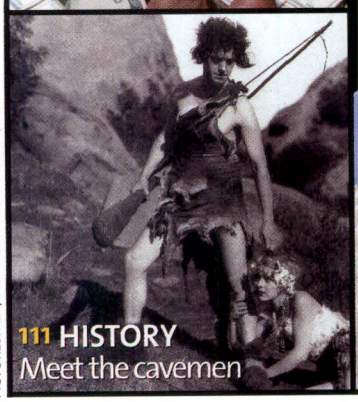
88
CELEBRITIES
The Marilyn Files

93 FOOD & DRINK
The joys of outdoor eating

98 MONEY
Electronic cash



82
MUSIC
The effects of festival food?



111 HISTORY
Meet the cavemen

PICTURES: REX, MOVIESTORE COLLECTION, PA

THE LISTING

JULY 2000

NEW MOVIE RELEASES 74
A gangland boss reminisces, plus other choice releases

MOVIES EPICS 76
Hollywood's historical sagas

NEW ALBUM RELEASES 79
The sounds of summer 2000

MUSIC 82
Tents, rain, mud, Portaloos, kebabs... yes, it's festival time again

SPORT 84
We serve up a selection of tennis sites

SPORT INJURIES 87
No pain, no inclusion here

CELEBRITIES 88
The icon's icon – Marilyn Monroe

TRAVEL 90
Two great British traditions – caravans and camping

FOOD & DRINK 93
Dine alfresco

HEALTH 95
Give good karma

MONEY 98
Virtual share dealing

KIDS 100
Decide if you want them (or not, after this)

LEARNING 103
Nought to 60wpm in two months

GAMES 105
Role-playing special

ANIMALS 109
Fitting send-offs for your beloved

HISTORY 111
Take your family tree *way* back

WEIRD 112
The craziness that lurks in the English countryside

NEED TO KNOW 114
Cream of the crop

'You looking at me funny?'

MOVIE RELEASES Marshall Julius whips out his sharp-shooter and opens fire on this month's new films

Brothers

Justin Brett, Darren Jacobs, Daniel Fredenburgh ★

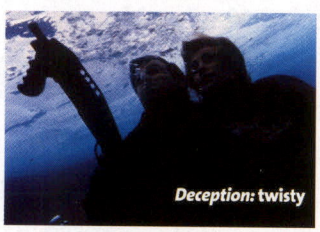
As interesting as a stranger's holiday video, this trashy amateur home movie follows the fortunes of six drunken morons on the piss (and the pull) in Greece. Lame-brained and obvious, with a hopeless, annoying cast and boring dialogue.

www.gmor.com/infoxenios *See a nicer side of Greece in this excellent travel and tourism guide.*

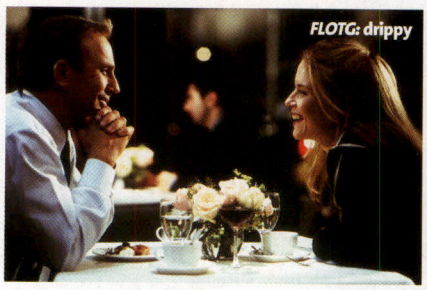
Deception

Ben Affleck, Charlize Theron, Gary Sinise ★★★

Eager to be home by the holidays, ex-con Affleck is instead lured into a world of crime and madness, of sex and death, populated by double- and triple-crossing psychos. A twisty, twisted thriller from director John *Ronin* Frankenheimer, it has Affleck relying on his wits to escape one freaky predicament after another. A flawed experience, but entertaining.



Deception: twisty



FLOTG: drippy

www.reindeergames-themovie.com *Threadbare synopsis and downloadable trailer.*

For Love of the Game

Kevin Costner, Kelly Preston, John C Reilly ★

A soppy baseball epic from Sam Raimi, featuring Costner, whose obsession with making sports movies depresses us all. This time, the least charismatic star in the world plays a pitcher at the end of his career, looking back at his cheesy life. A tale of romance and rejection, of style over content, and of a boring game played by a tedious man.

www.universalpictures.com/forloveofthegame *See the enhanced Flash version of the site for extra 'thrills'.*

Maybe Baby

Hugh Laurie, Joely Richardson, Tom Hollander ★

Laurie and Richardson struggle to have a baby in this poorly judged,

Gangster No1

Paul Bettany, Malcolm McDowell, David Thewlis ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

A ruthless gangland boss reminisces about his '60s heyday in this flawed but frequently brilliant British crime thriller. Unconvincing, overplayed contemporary sequences featuring McDowell are blown away by rock-hard and pacy '60s adventures in villainy. Newcomer Paul Bettany dominates the screen as the young gangster, rising through the underworld with an utterly foul mouth, a bloodied axe and relentless ambition. Be prepared, however, for what we reckon must be the most prolific use of the C-word in movie history, spawning the first great catchphrase of the year: 'What d'yoo fink I am, some sawt of a ct?'**

upcomingmovies.com/gangster1.html *More background information on the film and cast.*

Gangster No1: hard-boiled

Be prepared for the most prolific use of the C-word in history

PICTURES: IMAGENET, KOBAL

CLASSIC FILM

CASABLANCA

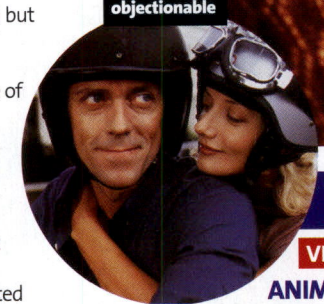
'Everything alright with the zabaglione, sir?'

Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henreid *(1942)*
The single most quotable movie ever made, at least after *Star Wars*, this is probably the definitive Hollywood picture. Although it was a difficult one to make, the results seem effortlessly elegant, a first-class melodrama with a nifty wartime plot. Gateway to the Western World, life is cheap in Casablanca, a colourful Moroccan city teeming with desperate souls. At its heart is Rick's Cafe, run by Bogie in unforgettable form, torn between love and duty. Here's looking at you, kids.
www.cyberblanca.com *Everything you ever wanted to know about* Casablanca, *with a trivia quiz, a chat room, and links to fellow obsessives.*

increasingly dreadful and unfunny comedy from writer and debut director Ben Elton. The pain of a likeable couple whose marriage suffers as a result of their failure to breed is exploited in a pedestrian and thoughtless way. Feeble all-star cameos only serve to distance us further from this objectionable, self-conscious waste of film.
www.geocities.com/~phaley/hugh5.htm *Huge resource on Hugh Laurie.*

Relative Values

Julie Andrews, Sophie Thompson, Edward Atterton ★★★
Andrews returns in this workmanlike adaptation of Noel Coward's dated but amusing comedy of manners, leading a culture-clashing tale of snotty but amiable British folk looking down their noses at trashy but loveable Americans. Charmingly played and not unpleasantly old-fashioned, but directed without the slightest hint of flair.
www.manxfilms.com/relativevalues.html *Check out the locations used in the film – and find out more about the Isle Of Man.*


Maybe Baby: objectionable

Return To Me

David Duchovny, Minnie Driver, Carroll O'Connor ★★★★
A sweet, good-natured romance with charming leads, *Return To Me* serves up its fair share of corn yet remains beguiling throughout. Widowed architect Duchovny perks up after meeting a waitress (Driver) with a heart of gold – only problem being that it came, via a transplant, from his dead wife. A warm and watchable debut from director, co-writer and co-star Bonnie Hunt. The date movie of the month.
www.mgm.com/rtm *Read and contribute nightmare date stories, take a love test and see movie out-takes on this entertaining site.*

Three To Tango: cute

Sweet and Lowdown

Sean Penn, Samantha Morton, Uma Thurman ★★★★
Penn has a ball playing an irascible, egotistical '30s jazz giant in this comic fictional biopic from director Woody Allen. Jazz aficionados pay tribute to the great Emmet Ray, the second best guitarist in the world, whose life and times are amusingly captured in this sweet little flick. Beautifully shot with a great soundtrack of vintage hits, and strong support from Oscar-nominee Morton as a mute laundry girl.
www.spe.sony.com/classics/sweetandlowdown *Get some background on the film – and the soundtrack.*

Three To Tango

Matthew Perry, Neve Campbell, Oliver Platt ★★★
The sexes battle it out yet again in this fairly cute romantic comedy. Architect Perry, in love with his boss's mistress (Campbell), is surprised to discover that everyone thinks he's gay, and is forced to remain in the closet about his straightness. There's much yearning, acceptable chemistry and a dumb but happy ending.
www.3totango.com *There's a lot of information here, and tons of multimedia too, from 'secret Webcam footage' of the stars to Matthew Perry Web cards.*

When the Sky Falls

Joan Allen, Patrick Bergin, Jimmy Smallhorne ★★★
From John Mackenzie, director of *The Long Good Friday*, comes this earnest, violent drama based on a true story. Wife, mother and ballsy crime reporter Allen fights to expose the dealers of Dublin. Reckless risk-taking is the name of the game, and Allen mixes with an assortment of criminals, terrorists and coppers, including sympathetic detective Bergin. Well told and sensitively played, but short on surprises.
www.lifewithmeaning.com/guerin *Read the background to the story of journalist Veronica Guerin, on whom the film is based.*

THE ONES TO WATCH

VIDEO RELEASES What's showing at your local video shop this month

ANIMAL FARM

Pete Postlethwaite, Patrick Stewart
The definitive adaptation of Orwell's dark satire has finally arrived. John Stevenson brings it to life with his innovative direction, assisted by a first-rate voice cast and a combination of Henson magic and computer wizardry.
tnt.turner.com/movies/tntoriginals/animalfarm/main.html

MYSTERY MEN

Ben Stiller, William H Macy
Superhero wannabes fight for truth and justice in this comic-book adventure. Colourful and wacky, packed with gags and played to the hilt – characters to watch out for include Mr Furious, fork-tosser The Blue Raja and farting whirlwind The Spleen.
www.mysterymen.com

CARRIE 2

Emily Bergl, Amy Irving
A trashy cash-in several years past its make-by date, this belated nonsense bores us rigid before high school freak Bergl unleashes her spooky 'mind powers' on a bunch of justly doomed teenagers.
www.mgm.com/carrie2

OCTOBER SKY

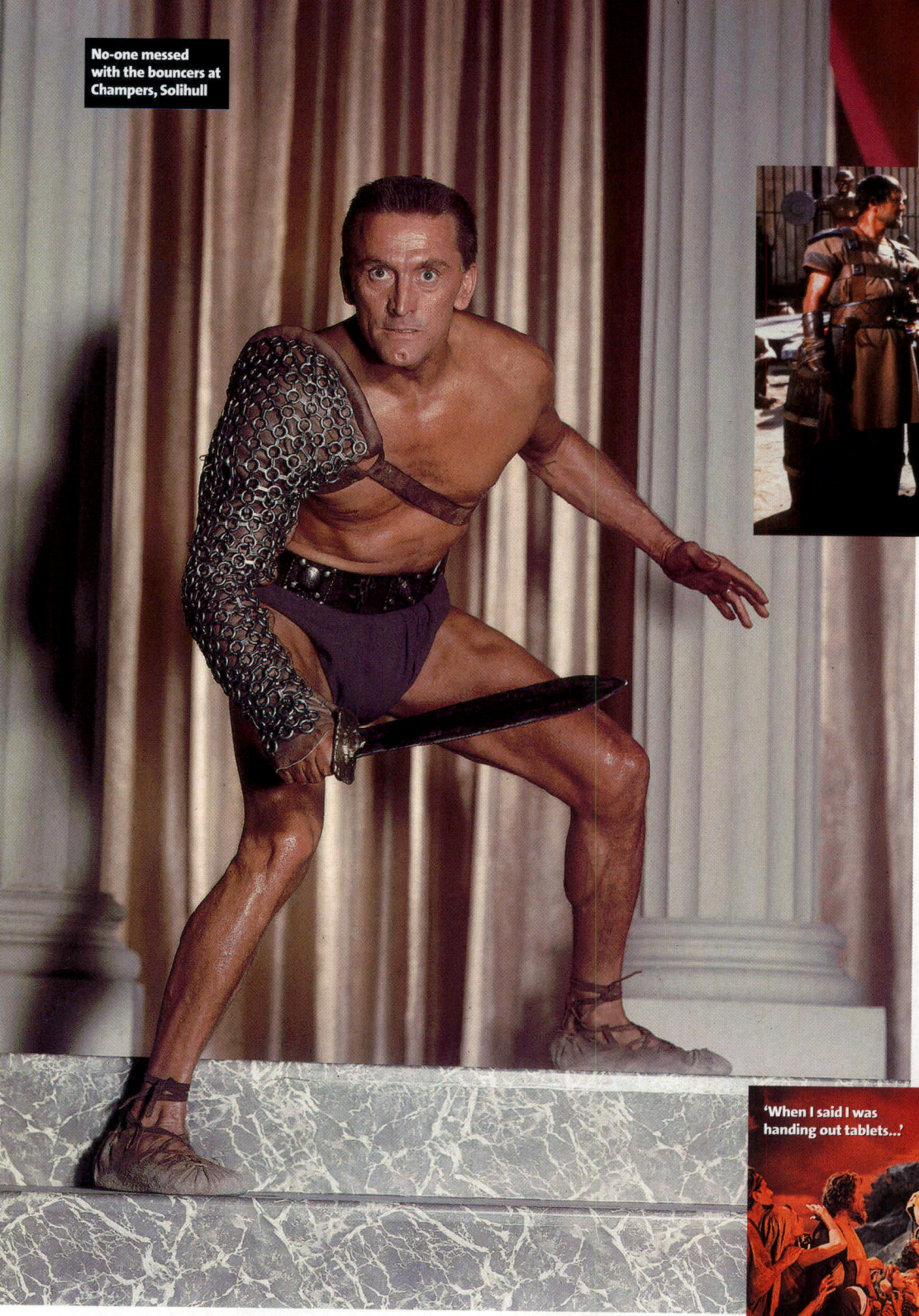
Jake Gyllenhaal, Chris Cooper
Stirring biopic about the early life of NASA scientist Homer Hickam (Gyllenhaal), who, inspired by Soviet satellite Sputnik, resolved to build his own miniature rockets. Intelligently played.
bomis.snap.com/rings/octobersky

DEEP BLUE SEA

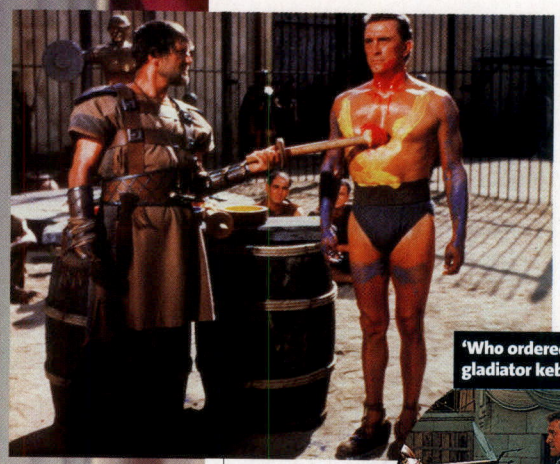
Saffron Burrows, LL Cool J
Scientist Burrows defies nature and suffers the consequences, as a trio of genetically-enhanced smart sharks tuck into some juicy humans stranded underwater. Stupid, scary – and lots of fun. ***www.wb-deepbluesea.com***

THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH

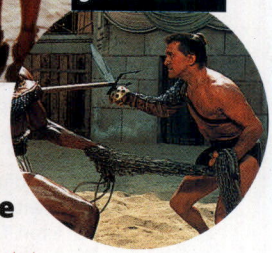
Pierce Brosnan, Sophie Marceau
Brosnan returns for a third round of Bondage – enduring many beautiful women and much comic-book violence, while surviving a needlessly convoluted plot and average baddies. ***www.jamesbond.com***



No-one messed with the bouncers at Champers, Solihull



'Who ordered a gladiator kebab?'



'No, I'm Spartacus!'

HISTORICAL EPICS Travel back in time with the power of film...

'When I said I was handing out tablets...'

Cleopatra

www.historyinfilm.com/cleo/cleohome.htm ★★★

Taking inflation into account, this four-hour tale of Romans, Egyptians and asps – with its very own high-profile couple in Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor – is still the most expensive film ever made. This site gives you a Roman family tree, a list of Emperors and a chance to see Rex Harrison and Roddy McDowall before one played Doctor Dolittle and the other a chimp.

Dances With Wolves

www.ozcraft.com/scifidu/dances.html ★★★

The cowboy-befriends-Injuns story which convinced debuting director Kevin Costner that audiences would sit for hours to watch him do absolutely anything (see *Waterworld*, *The Postman*. Actually, don't.) *Dances* isn't really that bad a movie – all four hours of it – if not quite worthy of the gushing praise to be found on these tribute pages. Still, if you like the film, you'll like the site.

Dragons a-plenty at the *Excalibur* site

The English Patient Unofficial Homepage

ovrdedge.simplenet.com/tep ★★★★

The nine-Oscar drama which almost made director Anthony Minghella a household name, by tracking poorly Ralph Fiennes' recovery over nigh-on three hours of cinema. It'd probably take longer to get through this packed site, but you can enjoy pics of Ralph to break your journey.

Excalibur The Movie

excalibur.simplenet.com/dandalf/excalibur.html ★★★

Ex-what? Giving early screen breaks to Liam Neeson, Patrick Stewart and Gabriel Byrne, it's lauded here as 'The Definitive Arthurian film'. That said, the site owner calls him/herself 'Dandalf the Dragon', so perhaps judgement is clouded. Whatever: if you like your epics to feature swords and castles, you could do a lot worse.

The Lawrence Of Arabia Homepage

www.sas.upenn.edu/~tem/law ★★★★

David Lean's biog of the enigmatic adventurer pulls off the rare trick of being epic *and* intelligent – and it scooped seven Oscars. Like the film, the site is sizeable yet considered,

WORDS: GARY PARKINSON; PICTURES: KOBAL, MOVIESTORE

Braveheart@MacBraveheart

www.macbraveheart.freeserve.co.uk ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

If William Wallace were alive today, he'd be surprised to see the effect that the recent Mel Gibson biopic had on John and Linda Anderson. One night at home watching the video (the first of 50 times so far) was enough to inspire the production of this huge site, encompassing not only the film but entire tracts of Scottish history to boot, up to and including devolution. It's so impressive, in fact, that both the BBC and the Scottish Parliament's PR department have been in touch for information.

with movies, audio, posters and several good review postings.

The Man In The Iron Mask

www.ironmask.com/index_main.html ★★★

The recent remake with pudgy-faced manboy Leo DiCaprio was serviced by the type of Web site fast becoming *de rigeur* for top Hollywood productions – all frill and no knickers (perhaps they're designed to match the films). There's a contest, a postcard-sending facility, screensavers and a look at the star, plus of course an attention-grabbing game. Brain candy.

'Make-up for Mr Burton and Ms Taylor, please'

Schindler's List

www.historyinfilm.com/schnlist ★★★

Steven Spielberg has now more or less admitted that he makes cash-ins like the *Jurassic Park* sequel to give himself the commercial leeway for 'educational' films like *Schindler's List* – which invariably become huge hits anyway. The latter is part of the History in Film Web site, a reference tool for cinema-literate teachers to bring dusty course-books to life. Worthy.

Spartacus

chomsky.arts.adelaide.edu.au/person/DHart/Films/Spartacus.html ★★★

Helmed by Stanley Kubrick after the original director fell out with producer/star Kirk Douglas (who was in a beef because he didn't get to play Ben Hur), this tale of the revolting slaves was notable for its left-wing background: the novelist was a Communist, the screenwriter investigated by McCarthy. This academic site explores all the political ins and outs.

Team Bonet's Ten Commandments Shrine

www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Garden/3917/ten.html ★★★

When famously over-the-top director Cecil B DeMille took a cast including the seldom-understated Charlton Heston (see panel) and Yul Brynner to Egypt to film the three-hour story of Moses' chat with God, it was never going to be a subtle affair. On this site, Japanese collective Team Bonet pays homage far more tastefully than the film really deserves.

HESTON SERVICES

GOBBY CHARLTON

One man bestrides the historical epic genre like a Colossus: Charlton Heston. No quality site exists for perhaps his most famous role as Ben Hur, but there are plenty of pages dedicated to his enduring bonkersness. A rabid Republican and defender of the right to bear arms, Chuck is president of the National Rifle Association. In that capacity, he blamed the Columbine massacre not on the teenage murderers' access to firearms, but on their long coats. Check out *home.earthlink.net/~darkr/charlton/politics.html* to read speeches peppered with phrases like 'the fringe propaganda of the homosexual coalition'. Aptly-named Charlton shrine spleenworld.com features another Hestonism: 'The Internet is for lonely people.' You've got to love him... haven't you?

Heston: barmy

best movies sites ★★★★★

where can I...

GET LATEST NEWS AND RELEASE DATES?

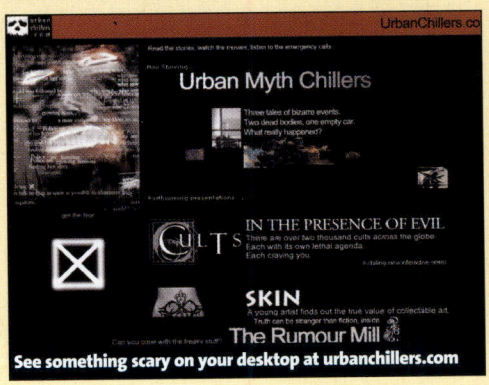
www.popcorn.co.uk
British perspective on new releases.
aint-it-cool-news.com
Gives the inside track on new films.
www.filmunlimited.co.uk
Views and news from *The Guardian*.
uk.imdb.com
The bible of online film – use the search engine or you'll soon be lost.

DECIDE WHAT TO SEE?

cinemachine.com
Retrieves film reviews from across the Web.
www.filmreview.co.uk
A UK-based review site to rival the Americans.
www.mrqe.com
Flamboyantly-titled Movie Review Query Engine with 17,000+ films.
www.movie-trailers.com
Trailers for all the newest films, plus archives.

FIND OFFICIAL FILM SITES?

www.fox movies.com
Provides links to all 20th Century Fox movie releases.
www.movies.warnerbros.com
WB's new films and lost classics.
www.disney.co.uk/DisneyMovies
All the kids' faves in one go.



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BT-owned amateur movie site.
www.urbanchillers.com
Scary new horror flicks to download.
www.sightsound.com
The place to see *The Quantum Project* – the first full-length, full-budget Net film.

FIND A CINEMA?

www.uci-cinemas.co.uk
A great search engine to locate current film screenings across the country.
www.odeon.co.uk
Book online, or peruse the latest information.
cinema.scoot.co.uk
From the people behind the comprehensive directory.
www.cineworld.co.uk
UK film portal that also includes a cinema finder.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

alt.movies.kubrick
Plenty of *Spartacus* discussion here, plus chat on Kubrick's other classics.

JOIN A MAILING LIST?

Discuss the art of film-making by sending an email marked 'subscribe film-theory' to ***Majordomo@lists.village.virginia.edu***

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audiostreet.co.uk

Buy music on-line, a whole range of CDs from £9.99, free delivery in the UK

DVDstreet.co.uk

Buy DVDs on-line, the UK's most comprehensive DVD store with up to 40% off and free delivery in the UK

gamesstreet.co.uk

Buy games on-line, the UK's premier games site for all platforms, up to 40% off, free delivery in the UK

Entertainment shopping made easy @ streets online

Bellatrix

It's All True **FIERCE PANDA** ★★★★

Icelandic bands are continually laden down with the moniker 'The Next Sugarcubes'. And while the vocals on Bellatrix's debut album do recall Björk at her kookiest, there's a dance sensibility here that means they're worthy of serious attention. Despite it's silly title, *Jediwannabe* is an immense pop stomper, while *Always* sounds like Moloko at their most blissfully melancholic.

www.bellatrix.co.uk *Their official site, featuring a competition to win a holiday for two to Iceland.*

Bentley Rhythm Ace

For Your Ears Only **PARLOPHONE** ★★★★

They've been away for a long, long time, but this second album from the Brum big-beaters has been well worth the wait. There's the same sunshine vibe as their clap-happy debut, except the songs are far stronger this time around. The highlights are the collaborations with Kermit from Black Grape – the ska-tastic *How'd I Do Dat* is bound to be one of the songs of the summer.

www.parlophone.co.uk/bentley *Official site that's only any cop if you have Flash plug-Ins.*

Bentley Rhythm Ace: nice

If music be the food of love...

NEW RELEASES What'll be on the stereo at that summer barbecue? Ask John Mullen

Big Pun

Yeah Baby **EPIC** ★★★

You might remember the Pun as the over-sized rapper who recently passed away at the staggering weight of 700 pounds. But while his talent for rhyming didn't quite live up to his real skill of munching, there's a lot of inventive stuff here, especially on *It's So Hard*, one of the few rap records about the pressures of fame that doesn't make you want to reach for a loaded Uzi. Let's hope they serve hamburgers in heaven.

www.chicanomusic.com/newsletter/bigpun.html *Short biography of the man who was too young to die, but sadly too fat to live.*

Big Pun: room for a small one?

Buckley: fringe benefits

Jeff Buckley

Mystery White Boy **COLUMBIA** ★★★★★

Three years after his death, you can still hear Buckley's influence, from the melancholic tones of Travis to the howling guitars of Muse. And this live album is even better than his studio output, featuring an impeccable array of cover versions on which he can show off his choir-boy voice (The Smiths' *I Know It's Over*, Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*). The only problem is that you realise how much we need someone of his stature in these Limp Bizkit-infested days.

www.execpc.com/JeffBuckley *Upbeat shrine to the great man, with a fantastic database of articles and guitar tabs.*

Dimitri From Paris

A Night In The Playboy Mansion **VIRGIN** ★★

In pop music, everybody knows that timing really is everything. Last year you couldn't move for disco compilations and movies about Studio 54; now the whole glitter-ball thang smells a little of stale wee. So why would you want to buy a disco mix album when even your grandmother knows that UK garage is where it's at? You're a silly boy, Dimitri.

www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Pavilion/7086 *Site devoted to electro-pop artists like Dimitri Cassius, Dimitri from Paris, Armand Van Helden, Daft Punk and others.*

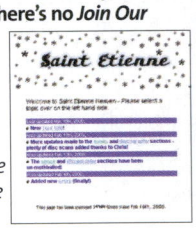
ALBUM OF THE MONTH

St Etienne

Sound Of Water **MANTRA** ★★★★★

It's an unwritten rule that avant garde music should leave you with perforated eardrums. Not so with Saint Etienne, though. Recorded in Berlin, this sees the pop trio expanding their sound with the help of experimental outfits like To Rococo Rot. And while there's no *Join Our Club*, listening to the luscious orchestration of *How We Used To Live* shows that at long last, Saint Etienne have managed to craft an album as clever and ingenious as their high-falutin' rhetoric.

www.saint.etienne.net *Accurately describing itself as Saint Etienne Heaven, you can vote for your favourite song or check out the Saint Etienne quiz.*



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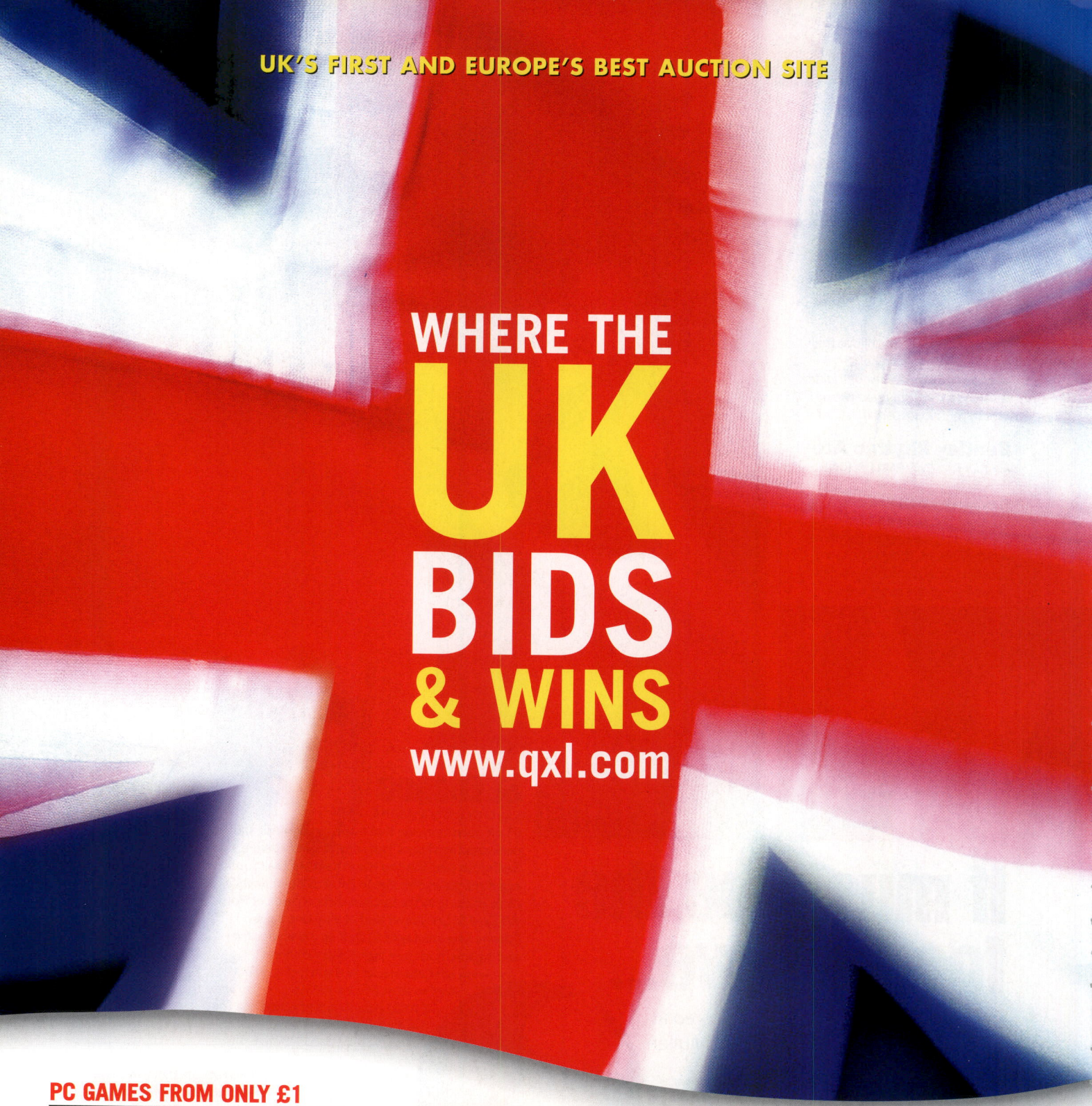

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L7

The Best Of The Slash Years
SLASH/LONDON ★★

As a publicity gimmick for their recent London shows, the drummer from L7 raffled herself off for a night of dubious pleasure with one of the audience. And while they love a good stunt (they pulled their knickers down on *The Word* – remember?), the problem is that their songs really aren't up to much. The Blondie-aping *Pretend We're Dead* is obviously fantastic, but maybe they should have spent more time in the rehearsal studio than working on their PR strategy. ***www.smellL7.com*** *Continually updated site with a complete list of tour dates if you feel like trying to win the drummer another night.*

Super Furry Animals

Mwng **PLACID CASUAL** ★★★★

After last year's highly commercial *Guerrilla* album, SFA return to their roots with an album sung entirely in Welsh. The linguistic barrier doesn't matter a jot, though – even if you can't understand what Gruff Rhys is singing about, you can relish the delightful whimsy of their sound. With an almost soundtrack-esque sense of atmospherics, tracks like the vowel-defying *Ymaelodi A'r Ymlon* sound a bit like a mix between Max Boyce and Ennio Morricone. An unexpected treat. ***www.sfa.cymraeg.org*** *Welsh language SFA site! Cym on!*

SFA: saving the Wales

Toploader

Onka's Big Moka **S2** ★★

Friends of Paul Weller and Noel Gallagher, there's something almost oppressively jolly about this Eastbourne band, tipped to be the next Dodgy. *Dancing In The Moonlight* is melodic enough to recall *Brown Eyed Girl* by Van Morrison, but elsewhere you wish they'd stop telling you how bloody great life is. Does the threat of GM food and ever-escalating property prices mean nothing to them? ***www.toploader.com*** *The band's cheap-but-cheerful official site, with a few tunes for you to download.*

Neil Young

Silver And Gold
REPRISE ★★

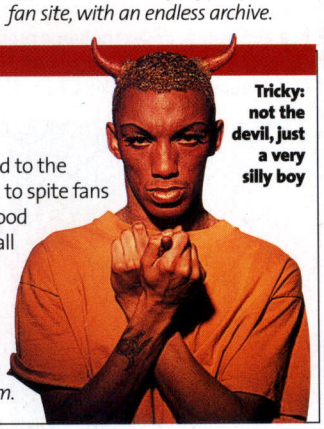
Neil Young? Neil bloody Old more like. A terrible joke, yes, but an accurate one as this album sees the legendary rocker finally giving up the creative ghost and settling down with a pipe and slippers. He might be 55, but there's no excuse for the mawk-ishness expressed in tracks like *Buffalo Springfield Again*, where he croons 'I'd really like to see those guys again.' Bring back Crazy Horse! ***HyperRust.org*** *Worryingly definitive fan site, with an endless archive.*

CLASSIC ALBUM

TRICKY

Maxinquaye **4TH & BROADWAY** *(1995)*

The tar-lunged Bristolian recently signed to the punk-metal label Epitaph, probably just to spite fans who're hoping he'd return to making good tunes. The magnificent *Maxinquaye* is all you need to own by the misanthropic one, and the metallic cover of Public Enemy's *Black Steel* rocks harder than anything by those wimps Slipknot. ***www.trickyonline.com*** *Tricky uses this as a forum to address his fans. Both of them.*


Tricky: not the devil, just a very silly boy

GIG AND TOUR GUIDE

Chem Bros in *Star Trek* transporter shock

JUNE Start the queues for the Portaloos...

BENTLEY RHYTHM ACE
Wild antics are promised for this Birmingham duo's returning tour.
8 June London Astoria
10 June Sheffield Leadmill
11 June Cambridge Junction
13 June Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall **14 June** Norwich Waterfront
www.parlophone.co.uk

FLEADH
Festival celebrating all things Irish and featuring The Undertones, The Corrs and, erm, Prefab Sprout.
June 10 London Finsbury Park
www.thecorrs.com

GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL
Mud. Hippies. Stone Circles. Oh, and the odd band in attendance, such as The Chemical Brothers, David Bowie and Travis.
June 23-25 Worthy Farm, Pilton
www.glastonburyfestival.co.uk

KELIS
'I HATE YOU SO MUCH RIGHT NOW!'. And so forth.
June 22 London Shepherd's Bush Empire
www.sohh.com

MOLOKO
The rejuvenated trip-hoppers bring it back to you.

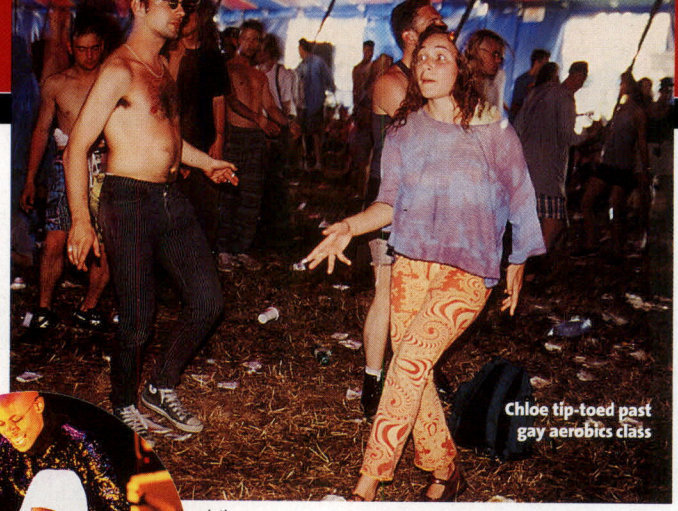
Travis: bristling with excitement

6 June Manchester University
15 June London Shepherd's Bush Empire
www.moloko.co.uk

T IN THE PARK
Scotland's premier music festival, which this year features Ocean Colour Scene, the Fun Lovin' Criminals, Gomez and (but of course) Travis.
8-9 July Balado, by Kinross, Scotland
www.tinthepark.com

'Can you hear me at the back?'

FESTIVALS It's a choice between mud and hay fever – yes, festival season is here again


Chloe tip-toed past gay aerobics class

The Sand People didn't stand a chance

Creamfields

www.cream.co.uk ★★★★

As well as planning a new venue in Brighton, the Liverpool superclub is back once again for this dancefest during a bank holiday weekend – a heady mix of live acts and top-notch DJs make it a great event for dance fans. As for the Cream Web site: it's good, but there's not much on Creamfields itself.

Punchestown Racecourse, Naas, County Kildare **24 June**
Old Liverpool Airfield, Speke Road, Liverpool **26 August**
Headline Acts: **Basement Jaxx, Moloko** Tickets: TBA

The Enchanted Garden

www.bigchill.co.uk ★★★

While other festivals can be mad, raucous affairs, the Enchanted Garden is aimed at making everyone chill out to funky tunes for the weekend. You won't see many chart acts past or present, but that's what makes it so unique...

Larmer Tree Victorian Pleasure Gardens, Cranmore Chase, near Salisbury
4-6 August
Headline Acts: **Jazzanova, Nitin Sawhney** Tickets: £60

Essential Festival

www.essentialfestival.com ★★★★

The Essential Festival hasn't been around for a couple of years, but it's back, with two days offering different styles of music. Fatboy Slim features on Dance Day (Saturday), while on Sunday James Brown leads a line-up of soul and hip-hop acts during Roots Day.

Stanmer Park, Brighton
15-16 July Headline Acts: **TBC** Tickets: £50

Gatecrasher

www.gatecrasher.co.uk ★★★★★

Gatecrasher is a regular dance night, but the *pièce de résistance* comes at the Summer 2000 event when over 40 big-name DJs get together for a 16-hour dance music extravaganza. The site offers details on that event, as well as the regular Gatecrasher get-togethers.

Turweston Airfield, Oxfordshire
June 17
Headline Acts: **Paul Oakenfold, Judge Jules, Goldie** Tickets: £40

Glastonbury

www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk ★★★

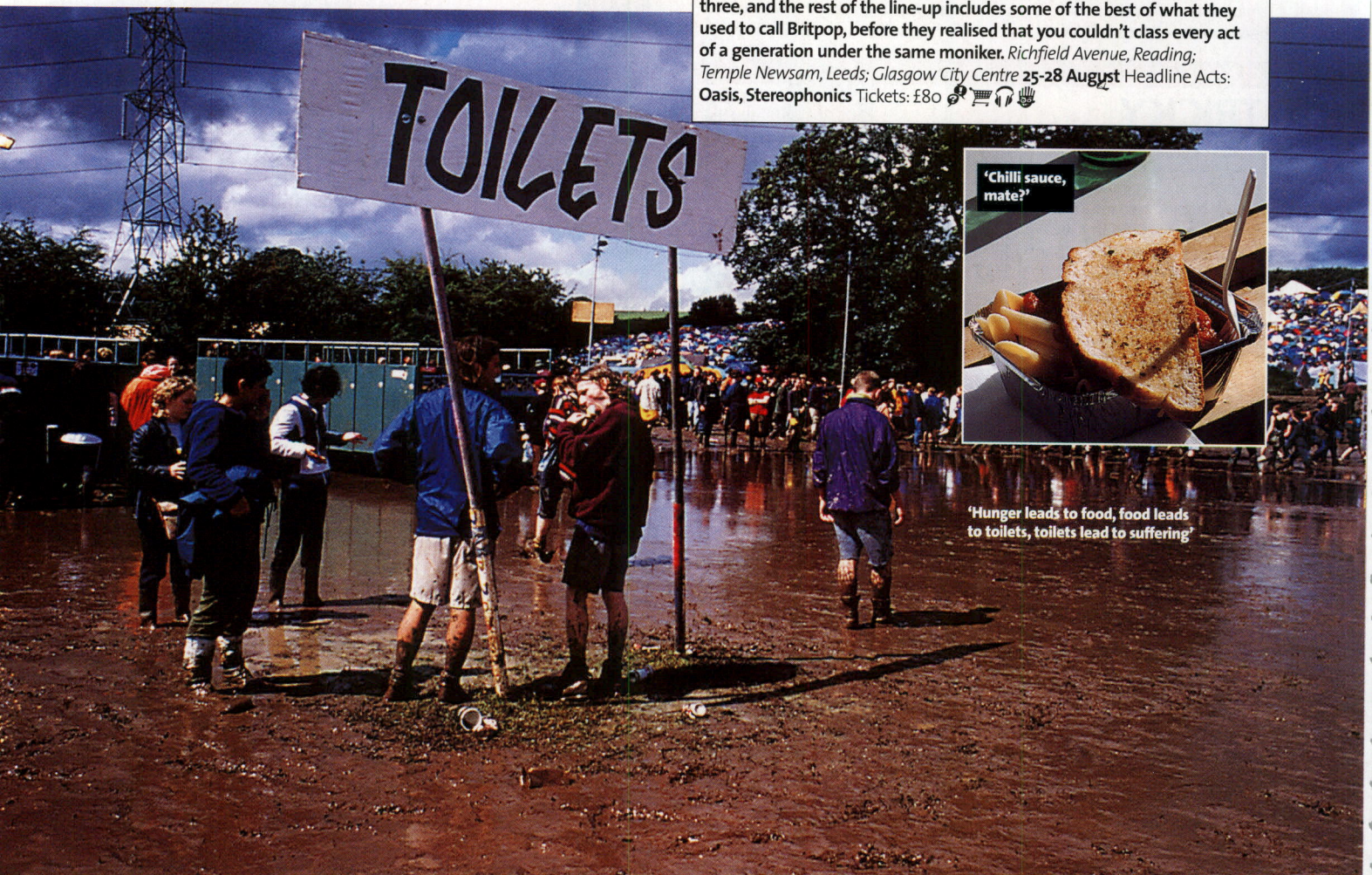
Probably the most renowned festival, although everyone else is striving to catch up. It might be wise to follow the useful information on the official site, such as, 'only bring what you can afford to lose.' The site can be temperamental – if you have problems try

Reading & Leeds

www.readingfestival.com ★★★★★

the net ★★★★★ AWARD

A big move for the Reading Festival this year, with the event encapsulating venues in Leeds and Glasgow as well as that jewel of the south-east. Oasis are playing all three, and the rest of the line-up includes some of the best of what they used to call Britpop, before they realised that you couldn't class every act of a generation under the same moniker. *Richfield Avenue, Reading; Temple Newsam, Leeds; Glasgow City Centre* **25-28 August** Headline Acts: **Oasis, Stereophonics** Tickets: £80



'Hunger leads to food, food leads to toilets, toilets lead to suffering'

'Chilli sauce, mate?'

best music sites ★★★★★

where can I...

FIND A BAND SITE?

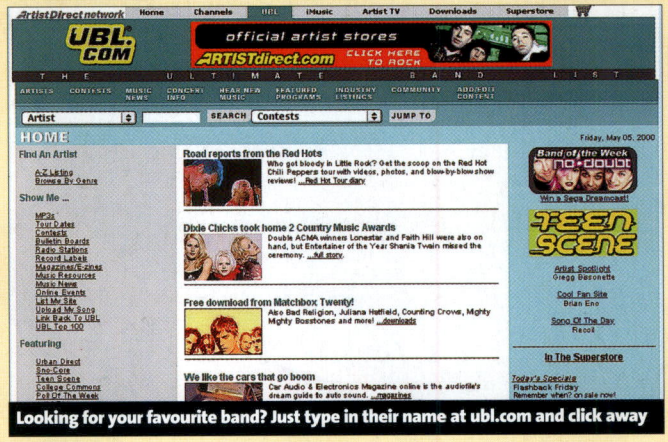
www.ubl.com
Make this the first stop on your quest – its search engine is huge.
www.bigmouth.co.uk
UK-specific site with tons of links.
www.musicsearch.com
Find artist sites or music services.
www.wallofsound.com
Links and features from the US.

READ THE LATEST NEWS AND REVIEWS?

www.rollingstone.com
The well-written US publication features extra online content. See the MP3 section for downloads.
www.nme.com
The online version of the music paper has built a solid reputation for breaking exclusive news.
www.qonline.com
Increasingly essential online version of the popular magazine.
www.dotmusic.com
British site for all rock and pop news.

FIND GIGS AND TOURS?

www.ticketlinks.com
Full database of musical events, covering all styles. Also includes theatre and performing arts.
www.aloud.com
Brilliant search engine for gigs, with tickets to buy, too.



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Get the inside track at nme.com

www.sceneone.co.uk
Entertainment portal. Extremely easy to use.
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www.cdnow.com
One of the biggest CD stores in the world.

FIND OUT ABOUT MP3s?

www.mp3now.com
One of the most popular MP3 portals, now expanding into the UK.
www.mp3place.com
Impressive database, searchable by either artist name or song title.
mp3.lycos.com
Browse the world of MP3s with this comprehensive search engine.
www.mp3.com
Official site; heaps of downloads.

POST MY BAND'S MP3s?

www.crunch.co.uk
Signs artists exclusively for the site.
www.peoplesound.com
A popular unsigned band portal.
www.vitaminic.co.uk
New, professional-looking MP3 site.
www.getoutthere.bt.com
BT-run film and music portal.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

uk.music.alternativ
Find out more about some of the bands you might be seeing this summer.

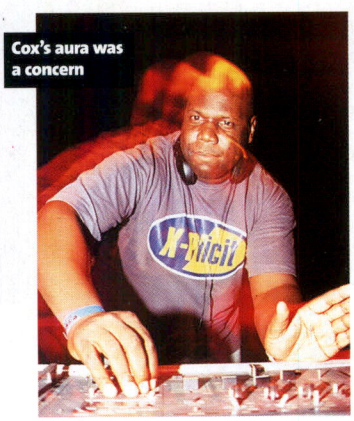
JOIN A MAILING LIST?

Join the list at ***www.virtuetv.com*** and keep up to date with new shows.

GET CHATTING?

www2.imusic.com/cgi-bin/chat/bandchat.cgi
Chat rooms that are listed by genre or specific artist.

Looking for more Music sites? Turn to Need To Know on page 114


Cox's aura was a concern

www.glastonbury-festival.co.uk.
Glastonbury, Somerset **23-25 June**
Headline Acts: **Chemical Brothers, Travis** Tickets: £87

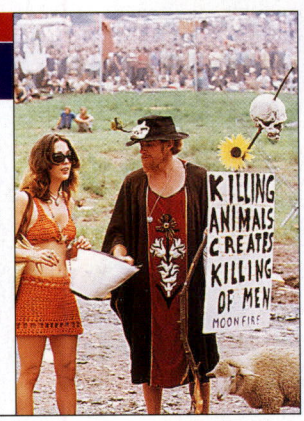
Guildford Live 2000

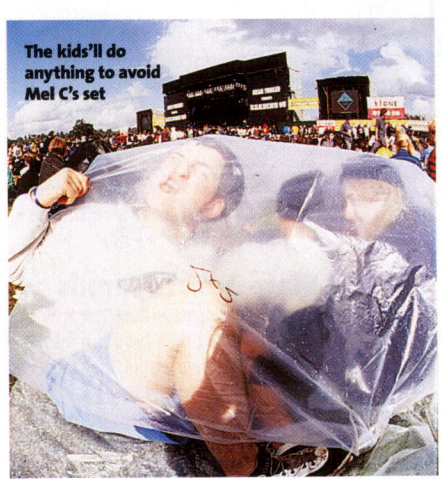
www.guildford-live.co.uk ★★★
This year sees the ninth Guildford Festival, and a somewhat eclectic mix of headliners over three days. Rolf Harris is rumoured to be doing a cover version of Robbie Williams' *Angels* on his new album; we reckon a live version would be well worth the entrance fee alone.
Guildford, Surrey **28-30 July**
Headline Acts: **Motorhead, James Brown, Van Morrison**
Tickets: £57

WOODSTOCK REVISITED

ALL MUD CONS

As the youth of today desperately try to persuade mothers and fathers that they really should be allowed to go to Glastonbury, parents will invariably hark back to the legendary Woodstock event of 1969. If you want to gen up on who was there, what they played and see what happened, trot along to *home.columbus.rr.com/woodstock1969/index.html* where, apparently, Woodstock lives!




The kids'll do anything to avoid Mel C's set

Leeds Love Parade

live.loveparade.de ★★★
Places like Cream and Home are now more than just clubs, with Gatecrasher, Creamfields and Homelands all part of the festival scene. At Leeds they're all pulling together with involvement from DJs, clubs and dance magazines to create a mega event.
Leeds City Centre **8 July**
Headline Acts: **Carl Cox, Seb Fontaine, Judge Jules, etc** Tickets: Free

T in the Park

www.tinthepark.com ★★
OK, so it's not taking place until July, but you would have thought the organisers would have put up a decent site by now. All it has to offer at the moment is information on the line-up, as well as some basic ticket information. If this doesn't change, there's a little bit more info at ***www.anzwers.net/free/tinthepark***, but it's a poor Web presence for Scotland's finest.
Balado Airfield, Milnathort, Kinross **8-9 July**
Headline Acts: **Ocean Colour Scene, Fun Lovin' Criminals, Travis**
Tickets: £63

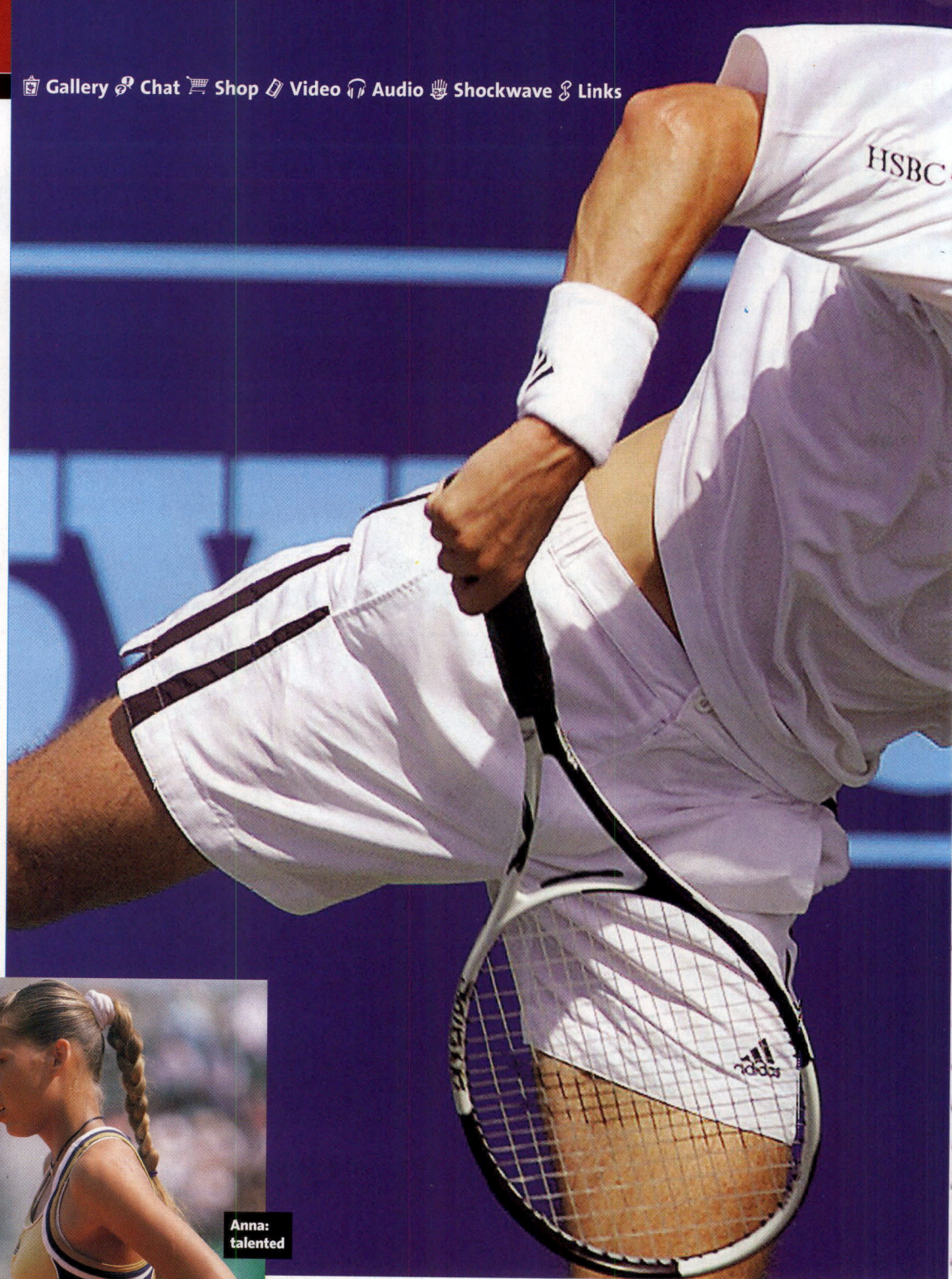
V2000

www.gigsandtours.com ★★★
Virgin's festival has been going for a few years now, and always seems able to attract the major chart acts of the day. Apart from headliners Richard Ashcroft and – yet again – Travis, others involved this year include Macy Gray, Supergrass and All Saints. The bands play at one venue one day and swap for the next. Simple, isn't it?
Weston Park Staffordshire/Hylands Park Chelmsford **19-20 August**
Headline Acts: **Richard Ashcroft, Travis** Tickets: £70.40

WORDS: PAUL WINSLOW; PICTURES: ANGELA LUBRANO, RETNA, REX

Game, set and match

TENNIS Wimbledon's here again, so gorge yourself on the annual feast of racquet action



ATP Tour

www.atptour.com ★★★★

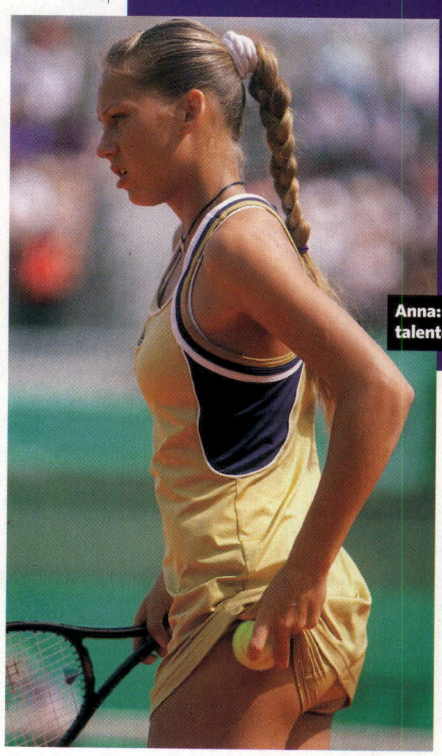
If it's stats and info you're after, where else would you turn but the two companion sites for the men's and women's tours? The ATP effort is chock-full of info and player profiles, with in-depth features and a generous links page in the 'magazine' section; the WTA effort (***www.wtatour.com***) looks vastly funkier but focuses on grass roots more than the professional game with training tips galore, a coach's corner and an ethically suspect 'glamour calendar.' Neither are thrilling, but they get the job done.

Cross Court Tennis

www.crosscourt.com.au

★★

From Down Under comes a comprehensive news source covering all the major tennis bases: professional tours, rankings etc. While there's nothing particularly impressive here, search around and you'll find an intriguing collection of player interviews featuring the likes of Agassi, Seles and McEnroe – plus some of the most remarkably inarticulate questions ever put to professional sportspeople.



Anna: talented

Martina Hingis Official Homepage

www.martinahingis.com

★★★★★

Strange fact: Anna Kournikova isn't even in the top 10 in the WTA rankings, yet she has roughly twice the number of Web sites of any other female player. Which must be a source of consternation to Martina Hingis. She's making a brave attempt to redress the balance, however, with her own official site. Sadly, while there's masses to read here and brownie points for the video content, the 'anecdotes' section makes David Beckham look like Sir Peter Ustinov.

Pete's Place

www.petesampras.com ★★★★

Given his complete domination of the men's circuit for several years now, it's no surprise to discover that Pete Sampras leads the Web site race, too. Petesampras.com does little to refute the stubblesome one's reputation as the Alan Shearer of the court, but it does provide an intriguing glance behind the scenes, with family album snaps, audio interviews and regular news and photos. Best of all is the Sampras Shockwave game, where surfers can try in vain to return his ferocious serve.

Slam Sports Tennis

www.canoe.ca/SlamTennis ★★★

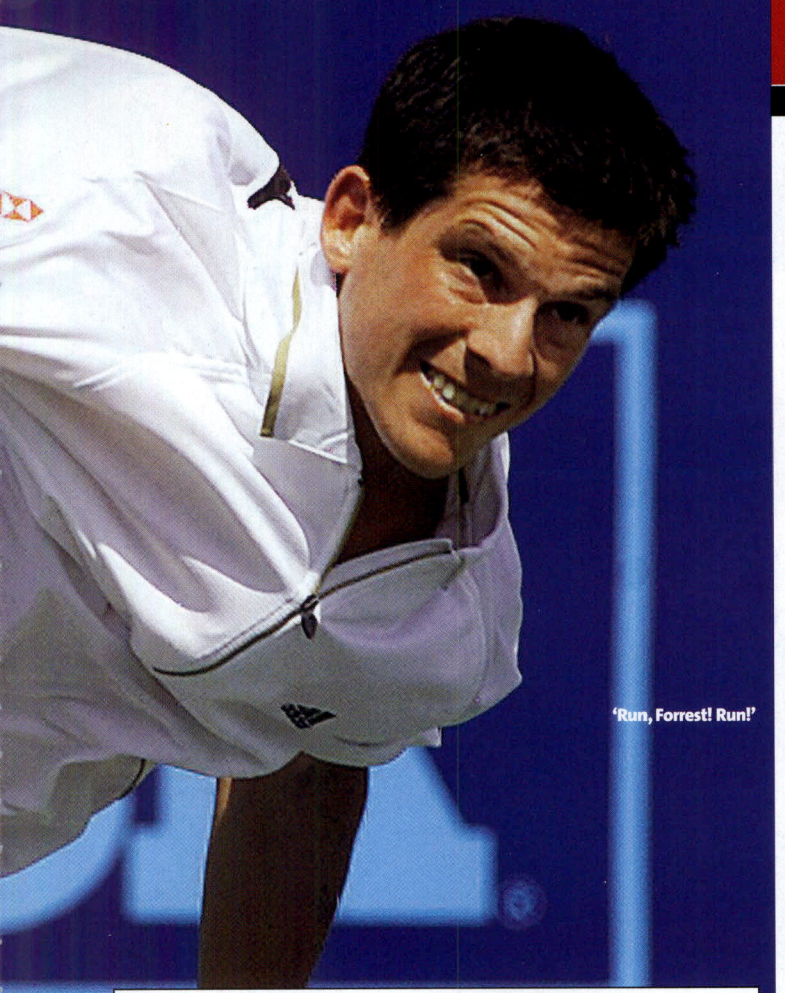
Canada might be a bit of an international backwater (letters to the usual address, please), but Slam is more than worth a visit during the Championships. The full statistical database of major players' careers does sterling service, and there's a live scorecard and a generous helping of picture galleries, too. (Including one dedicated to that giant of the women's game, Anna Kournikova, of course.)

Tennis.com

www.tennis.com ★★★★★

Sometimes you come across a site which is more than just a site. Tennis.com does for the game something approaching what Cricinfo does for cricket (or, indeed, what the imdb has done for film). All the news and player profiles are present and correct, but there's far more besides: thought-provoking columns on major figures in the game, a full calendar for the season and whole sections on improving your own game make this site an absolute essential.

WORDS: ROBERT JEFFERY; PICTURES: EMPICS, PA


'Run, Forrest! Run!'

All England Lawn Tennis And Croquet Club

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

www.wimbledon.org ★★★★★

As a rule, major sporting events' official efforts are unashamed nonsense – but this is a notable exception. The blazer brigade in SW19 have done themselves proud with this multimedia pot-pourri of tennis-related goodies. Check for the fastest score updates around, news and ticket details, a RealVideo archive of classic matches from history, a collection of interviews and some extremely professional wallpaper. An absolute essential – for two weeks at least.

Tennis Corner

tenniscorner.rivals.com ★★★

Rivals.com is one of the States' largest sports networks, covering everything from basketball to women's fishing. Tennis is one of the areas in which they excel, with quickly updated news, a series of message boards, fantasy games and links. And don't leave without watching an especially animated John McEnroe in the video section.

Tennis Server

www.tennisserver. com ★★★

If sitting around in front of the telly whets your appetite for the game, you'd best brush up on the basics. And where better to start than Tennis Server, a veritable cornucopia of tips that should make you the local Andre Agassi. Of course, if just watching is enough for you, you'll find plenty of that here too...

Tim Henman World

www.henmagic.freeserve.co.uk ★★★

As we witnessed a couple of years ago, our reticent tennis superstar does tend to inspire obsessive support – and one glance here would have him double-locking those doors in double-quick time. Webmistress Sara Vickery appears to follow our Tim all over the world, as the increasingly hysterical news reports ('Tim must have read my mind...') testify. And stay tuned for 'topless photos,' ladies.

best sport sites ★★★★★

where can I...

FIND THE LATEST NEWS AND SCORES?

espn.go.com
Sports scores galore, with a US bias.
www.sportlive.net
Express site with news and info.
www.soccernet.com
Scoreflashes from all UK games.
www.sporting-life.com
News, scores and betting advice.

FIND TOP FOOTBALL SITES?

www.football 365.com
Humour, news and plenty of features.
www.one football.com
Live scores and news from Europe.
www.teamtalk.com
Exclusive news from major clubs.
www.soccer-links.com
Well-organised and searchable set of links for sites around the world.

Follow football across the continent at onefootball.com

PLACE AN ONLINE BET?

www.bluesq.com
The best-known and easiest-to-use online bookie.
www.victorchandler.com
User-friendly site from the traditional bookmakers.
www.sporting index.com
The biggest spread-betting site.
www.vipsports.com
New gambling site covering a variety of sports across the world.

FOLLOW EVENTS LIVE?

www.planetfootball.com
Hub site for English football clubs' audio broadcasts.
www.sportlist.com
Guide to every sports show on British TV.
www.talksport.net
Listen to the national radio station's sports coverage live.
www.broadcast.com/sports/soccer
A variety of teams in RealAudio.

FIND THE BEST SITES FOR POPULAR SPORTS?

www.cricinfo.com
This really is the Internet Movie Database of cricket sites.
www.planet-rugby.com
Find everything oval-balled here.
www.pga.com
Golf's governing body scores a hole-in-one with this packed site.
www.boxingonline.com
The online king of the ring.

FIND FIXTURES?

www.sportcal.co.uk/public/online.htm
Comprehensive list of events and sponsors for five years.
www.pa.press.net/sport/calendar
Useful sporting guide for the forthcoming year.
www.sportlive.net
Join here for your own email sports diary.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

rec.sport.tennis
The definitive tennis newsgroup – join up to become of the fraternity.

JOIN A MAILING LIST?

Hope aboard the Martina Hingis Electronic Fan Club at
members.xoom.om/hingis_fan/

GET CHATTING?

www.tennisw.com/chat.html
Whether you play or watch or do a bit of both, talk tennis here.

YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS!

WHERE'S MAC?

'New sites, please'

Sport is nothing without a sense of history, and, in most sports, you'll find dozens of Web sites dedicated to the major players of the past 50 years. Not so tennis, where little before 1998 is even mentioned. And, in a conspiracy of silence to make Watergate look like a trifling little matter, some of the most controversial and talented stars of all time barely register on the Web scale. Tap Jimmy Connors or Ilie Nastase into any decent search engine and you'll be met with nothing. Even John McEnroe has only one site – his New York art gallery (*www.johnmcenroegallery.com*). Somebody end this scandal now.

We can even make Norway v Slovenia exciting.

Place a bet on any Euro 2000 match with

Rules apply – See www.bluesq.com Over 18's only

Medfacts' SportsDoc

www.medfacts.com/sprtsdoc.htm ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

Twisted ankle? Troublesome knee? Sore groin? Take your niggles and aches to the Sports Doc, a sports injury clinic built to look just like (wait for it...) a real doctor's surgery. Thus you'll find a 'waiting room' with a selection of lifestyle magazines and beverages, plus a list of appointments where you can diagnose and treat various fictional characters' problems – from patellar subluxation to a fractured toe. If you're still not sure, use the vast medical library to get a second opinion or watch the needlessly gruesome videos of sports surgery in action. All this, and you don't have to sit next to someone with a contagious skin complaint...

The Cell Block H girls loved a ruck before settling down for the night

'That's got to hurt!'

SPORTS INJURIES No pain, no gain – but sometimes it goes too far

Dr Koop.com

www.drkoop.com/news/sports ★★★

Stateside, sports injuries are big business, as demonstrated by the fanatical attention paid to the subject on Dr Koop's Web site. Every minor knock picked up by a US sports star is scrutinised here, but of more interest to the casual surfer is the excellent concise guide to common injuries and the handy 'exercise risk calculator', which rates your chances of coming a cropper during exercise. You can work out how many calories you've burned during your efforts, too.

Dr Zeman's Sports Medicine

www.sports-medicine.com ★★★

'Do you want to live longer?' If the answer is 'yes', Dr Zeman – a celebrity radio physician from the US – can help: the friendly advice on nutrition and fitness will soon straighten you out. And if you've picked up an injury playing sport, the kindly Doc will help diagnose and treat common complaints, too. Private email consultations, though, will set you back a hefty $10...

Sports Coach

www.brianmac.demon.co.uk ★★★★

Brian Mackenzie, so we're told, has been an athlete and coach for 30 years – and with the advent of the Internet, he's now able to dispense his wisdom on training and fitness to the world. Much of Brian's advice is straightforward and sensible, but the sections on injury prevention and evaluation are of particular interest – the former for its helpful checklist of exercise tips; the latter for showing how to find out exactly how fit you are. The results might make depressing reading, so perhaps you'd be better off going to the pub.

Sports Injuries

www.drugbase.co.za/data/med_info/mi_sport.htm ★★★

Enter this site with caution: after perusing the database of sporting injuries for a while, you'll refuse to take the field on a Sunday morning ever again unless trussed up like an ice hockey goalkeeper. Elbow fractures, torn achilles tendons, even frostbite and drowning are among the many possible hazards highlighted here. But no matter what the problem you'll find a solution here, even if the overly technical descriptions (since when has a toe been known as a metatorsil?) take some deciphering.

The leech claimed another victim

best sport sites ★★★★★ where can I...

JOIN A TEAM?

www.sportlive.net

Check out the 'grass roots' section for links to hundreds of local teams.

www.intheteam.com

Build yourself a mini-site for your club, featuring news and fixtures.

BUY ACCESSORIES ONLINE?

www.newitts.com

Great online sports store – whatever your sport, you'll find the kit here.

www.kitbag.com

The best place for new football kits and merchandise.

LEARN A MARTIAL ART?

www.blackbeltmag.com

Choose your fighting discipline then master the basics here.

Get kitted out at www.kitbag.com

www.kungfu.cc

Kung-fu course with handy online tutorials. Kicking!

LEARN THE RULES?

www-uk.cricket.org

Cricket's home page explains the lbw rule for confused Americans.

www.referee.com

You're certain to get your rule questions answered here.

FIND A NEW SPORT?

www.sportszine.co.uk

Comprehensive links to UK sites, from athletics to wrestling.

www.sports365.co.uk

Great new sport portal that's full of interesting links and loads of information.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

rec.running

Plenty of advice on avoiding injuries while trying to get fit.

GET CHATTING?

www.4-lane.com/sportschat/

Boards for 20 popular sports – swap sporting prowess stories here.

Looking for more Sport sites? Turn to Need To Know on page 114

WORDS: ROBERT JEFFERY; PICTURES: EMPICS

Kelp preserved the modesty of the beautiful mermaid

Gentlemen prefer blondes

MARILYN MONROE The revered *über*-icon of the 20th century is celebrated online

Pianos: treacherous

Candle in the Wind

www.geocities.com/Wellesley/1089/marilyn.html ★★

'Goodbye, Norma Jean', sang Elton John, awakening another generation to the eventful (to say the least) life of Marilyn Monroe. This small but energetic site is named after the song; there are hundreds of photographs, but it's most useful as a guide to all the Marilyn sites and Webrings – of which there are many.

Goddess

www.angelfire.com/ny/marilynmonroegoddess/pageMM1.html ★★★

A real fan-orientated site that encourages input from Marilyn lovers everywhere. And contribute they do – vehemently – to the poll about how she died. Interestingly, just 16 percent believe she committed suicide, while 22 percent favour the accidental overdose theory. An overwhelming majority (62 percent), however, are convinced she was murdered...

'Wish you were here...'

Marilyn Monroe 1926-1962

home.att.net/~sallyann3 ★★★★

Seen a lot on the Web and want to read more? Then head for this site, which prides itself on its reader reviews of the latest Marilyn books to hit the shelves. Unsurprisingly, the majority are about her death and possible involvement with the Kennedys. Even if that isn't your thing, the site is still worth a visit for the pics of Marilyn as various 20th century icons – including Jean Harlow and Marlene Dietrich. Stunning.

Marilyn Monroe Online

marilynmonroe.cjb.net ★★★★

This beautiful and informative homage was right in the middle of a revamp as we went to press, but it was still better than many other

WORDS: SARAH WAKELY; PICTURES: KOBAL, MOVIESTORE

Holding a Good Thought for Marilyn

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

homer1.gte.net/omrgav/index.htm ★★★★★

Yes, she was beautiful, a talented actress and quite possibly the most famous sex symbol the world has ever seen, but beneath all the glamour and glitz lay an often-troubled and very human woman. So it's refreshing to come across a tribute that focuses on Marilyn Monroe's life rather than just her fame. On this impressive site pictures of her homes and haunts sit alongside trivia, an impression of how she might look if she was still alive (she'd be 73) and a virtual tour of 12305 5th Helena Drive, the LA retreat where she was found dead in August 1962 after supposedly committing suicide. We guarantee you'll never see her in the same light again.

Beauty and the baseball player

Marilyn sites. Particularly impressive are the sound files – including the *Happy Birthday* recital to President Kennedy – and the message board where fans can discuss anything Marilyn-related.

Marilyn Monroe Photo Archives

www.dedienes.com ★★★★

Andre de Dienes was a Romanian-born photographer who hired 19-year-old Norma Jean Baker as a model. After taking the pictures, he buried the negatives in his garden. Fortunately, he recovered most of them four years before his death in 1985, and they yielded some 2,000 of the world's best Marilyn photos. Three hundred are on this site, including many of her as a brunette. With a history like that, how could you not want to take a look?

The Marilyn Pages

www.ionet.net/~jellenc/marilyn.html ★★★

Although many Web sites are packed chock-full of Marilyn shots, The Marilyn Pages is one of precious few that supplies a decent biography – sad, when you consider that she led a traumatic childhood and was married three times. But don't shorten your visit to this thoughtfully written and neatly packaged site – the links section is excellent and will point you to loads of other memorabilia sites.

Marilyn Underground

www.ping.be/marilynunderground/ ★★★★

Although her characters were often, er, intellectually-challenged, Marilyn Monroe was actually really rather clever, as this tasteful site testifies. Vast lists of her favourite writers (Dostoyevsky, Keats) sit alongside letters and links. Most moving of all are her poems, which give an insight into the mind of an obviously tortured woman. Examples include the harrowing: 'Help I feel life coming closer/ When all I want to do is die'.

Official Marilyn Monroe Web site

www.marilynmonroe.com ★★

It might be the official effort but that doesn't mean it has to be good: this falls somewhat short of fan-created versions. The list of Marilyn's favourites is interesting enough (Dom Perignon 1953, Chanel No 5), but the biography is brief and the site seems to be primarily geared towards flogging memorabilia. Surely she's worthy of more than this?

A Remembrance of Marilyn

www.remembermarilyn.com ★★★

As with any star who becomes an icon, memorabilia becomes highly sought after. This American site should be one of the first places to head if you're after any Marilyn-related goodies: there are photos, posters and magazines, most under $100. It's a shame there are no pics, though – would you really fork out $950 for a cardboard cinema lobby display that you hadn't seen?

THE X-FILES

CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Thanks to the new enforcement of the US Freedom of Information Act in 1975, confidential FBI files finally became available to the public for the first time. Unsurprisingly, they've made their way onto the Internet. Many concern celebrities, including John Lennon and Elvis Presley, but by far the most interesting is that detailing Marilyn Monroe's apparent links to both the Kennedys and Communism. While there's heavy black pen liberally applied to much of it, what there is makes compelling reading. Find them all at the official *foia.fbi.gov*.

Read FBI files at foia.fbi.gov

best celebrities sites ★★★★★

where can I...

FIND GOOD GOSSIP?

www.mrshowbiz.com
The fastest track to loads of gossip, with the odd exclusive, too.
www.celebritypalace.com
Plenty of gossip, plus links and resources.

FIND A STAR'S ADDRESS?

www.barringtons.com/EmailDir
Impressively lengthy list of addresses – verified and unofficial.
www.celebrityemail.com
Over 14,000 celebs on its pages, from supermodels to princes. Forwards your messages automatically.

READ MAGAZINES?

www.eonline.com
The latest happenings in the worlds of music, TV, film and video.
www.people.com
Online version of the popular US *People* magazine.

FIND CELEBRITY HOME PAGES?

www.celebsites.com
Links to official sites of celebs from all walks of fame.
www.usfanclubs.com
Masses of links to offical sites and fan clubs for all kinds of celebs.

MEET MY HERO?

www.yack.com
Updated list of celebrity events.
www.iknewthemwhen.com
The stars before they were famous.

Heaps of celebs: www.usfanclubs.com

BUY CELEBRITY ITEMS?

celebrityconnection.com/index.html
Buy and sell memorabilia.
www.starzstuff.com
All sorts of memorabilia from the world of movies, TV and music.

JOIN A MAILING LIST?

Head for ***glamournet.com/legends/Marilyn/#mail***, where you can join two Marilyn mailing lists.

GET CHATTING?

womenshistory.about.com
Head for the chat link to talk about Marilyn and other female legends.

Hit the road, Jack!

CAMPING AND CARAVANNING The Web meets the great outdoors

The caravan trials came to a climactic end

Adults Touring

www.adultstouring.co.uk ★★★

Calm down; it's not what you think. Contrary to popular belief, hordes of screaming children chanting 'are we there yet, dad?' aren't necessarily synonymous with caravanning – some 'vanners will drive hundreds of miles out of their way to find a child-free patch of green to put down their steadies. This is just the place for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* child catcher-types to find out where they can holiday in peace.

Australian Caravan Touring

www.ozemail.com.au/~adryan/caravan/pack/onsite.htm ★★★

It would be churlish to think that we'd picked this site to do nothing other than poke fun at caravanners and campers Down Under. I mean, where's the comic potential in a whole section devoted to what you should wear to the amenities block ('briefs underneath a sarong are advisable')? Amenity etiquette aside, this is interesting reading for caravanners around the world, and has a guide to Aussie cybercafés.

'Scenic countryside views...'

Camping and Caravanning Club

www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk ★★★★

If you're new to the world of caravanning and camping, be advised that participants in this 'leisure' activity split into two camps when it comes to clubs: The Camping and Caravanning Club, this one, and The Caravan Club. The former claims to be 'the friendly club', 'accepting all campers however they choose to camp.' Obviously a broad-minded lot – and the site is equally well-rounded, with details of all club sites, social and special activities, and technical advice and information.

The Camping Guide

www.thecampingguide.co.uk ★★★

Carry On Camping lives, we thought, when we saw the wagging hand directly under the words the 'The Camping Guide'. This was hoping for too much, but the site quickly demonstrates that it isn't entirely without attitude – Peter Gillooley doubtless speaks for male caravanners everywhere when he says 'men should only empty the loo if it's on the way to the pub'. Once this site grows into its sections – ie gets some tips in the tips section and some recipes in the recipe section – it'll be a handy resource. Usefully, if you've had your caravan stolen, it offers to post a picture of your beloved tourer.

Camping UK Directory

camping.uk-directory.com ★★★

Twenty quid for a nearly-new toilet tent? You're having a laugh. Well, no

Each bus to Greenham Common brought fresh volunteers

The Traveller

www.thetraveller.co.uk ★★★★★

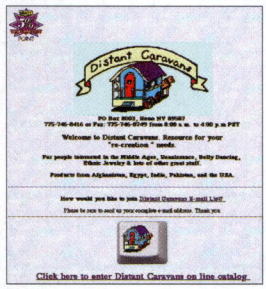
thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

Grey skies over Weston-super-Mare – ah, it could only be the great British caravanning holiday. Admit it, we've all been there (well, not necessarily Weston-super-Mare). Caravanning clearly works for Gareth Thomas, who has opened his photo album to the world and offers tips for perennial and often painful caravan problems like protecting your wind-breaks and how to lock toilet doors. There's an excellent site directory, a bulletin board, product reviews and even a Caravan Dr Fix-It. Way to go, Gareth!

DESERT STORM

'I JUST KEYED IN "CARAVAN"'

The strangest things happen on the Internet: you innocently key in 'caravan' and suddenly find yourself transported to a world of belly-dancing, bras and renaissance costume. Distant Caravans at *www.great basin.com/~caravan* is not a site dedicated to caravan parks in far-flung corners of the world; make no mistake, this one's roots are much closer to the Orient and the days when caravans had more to do with camels than Camping Gaz. For all your desert clothing requirements – harem pants (now, they'd cause a stir in the amenity block), tassels, veils, Arabic head-clothing – queue here.



Best not to skimp on the wood glue with an IKEA caravan

– caravanners never joke about things like this, and though it doesn't say how many careful owners it had, rest assured the loo will have been looked after. Used (but doubtless pristine) Porta-Pottis abound in the superb marketplace section, where you can also get yourself a bargain converted ambulance (11 months MOT and tax) if you're quick. The countrywide site directory seems comprehensive and Conversation Corner lets you swap campfire stories.

The Caravan Club

www.caravanclub.co.uk ★★★

'Welcome. Bienvenue. Wilkommen.' No, it's not the Eurovision Song Contest again but the Caravan Club site. More formal than the Camping and Caravanning Club on the surface, but we know what those caravanners are like once the four-berth door closes... You'd expect more content, but it has an excellent searchable database of caravan parks, which lets you look for your dream destination by area, name or even facilities – so if waste disposal and dog-walking are site essentials for you, key away.

Caravan Sitefinder

www.caravan-sitefinder.co.uk ★★★★

Gareth's home-grown site eclipsed this more official one as our five-star winner, but it's still a worthy bookmark as a one-stop source of caravanning information. It's fast, well-designed and tells you everything, from where to park your van to how to keep on the right side of the caravan law – not the 'thou shalt not empty your Porta-Potti on thy neighbour's patch' type, but vital stuff about maximum towing weights so you can avoid your van doing a backflip on the M1.

The Folding Caravan Company

www.folding-caravan.co.uk ★★★

If you're not part of the caravan and camping cognoscenti, this site is guaranteed to get a laugh. 'A folding caravan, is that something you get on the hard shoulder of the M25, arf, arf,' usually comes the response. Of course, those in the know are well aware of such gems such as the Conway, which really *is* a fold-out caravan. They're not to be confused with trailer trash and actually rather fun, especially if you're not ready for full-blown caravanning yet. Find out if a folder's for you at this site.

The Portapantry never caught on

Preloved – The Caravan Site

www.preloved.co.uk/go/caravans ★★★

Fancy hooking up with a 'bonny little go-anywhere' camper van for just under £5,000? If you're looking for a secondhand caravan or camper that has known only love all of its touring days, this is the place to go. There wasn't a huge amount of choice available when we dropped by, but you can always add your penny's worth in the towing forum if you've got anything worthwhile to add.

best travel sites ★★★★★

where can I...

FIND THE BEST HOLIDAY AND FLIGHT DEALS?

expedia.co.uk
Microsoft's flights and holidays site.
www.a2btravel.co.uk
Britain's biggest online travel agent.
www.thefirstresort.com
New online travel agent; good for family package holidays.
www.deckchair.com
Minimalist flight-finder from mop-haired Sir Bob Geldof.
www.travelocity.co.uk
Large holiday portal with competitive prices.

GET DESTINATION INFO?

www.t-e.co.uk
A great resource for travelogues, advice and guides.
www.roughguides.com
From the publishers of the guides.
www.utravel.co.uk
Good for finding out information on a resort before you book.

GET DOS AND DON'TS?

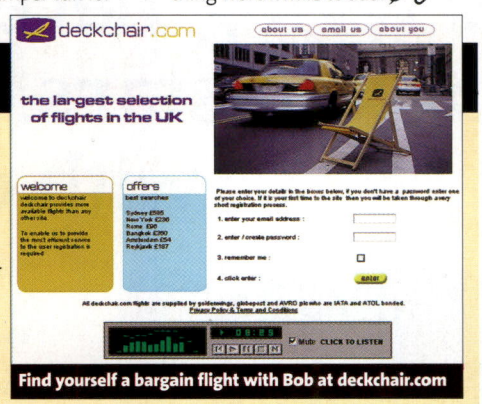
www.etravel.org
A neat and tidy online travel mag, with plenty of handy tips.
www.tips4trips.com
1000 handy 'tips for trips', categorised for easy access.
www.fco.gov.uk/travel
Get the official word on countries before setting off – maybe you shouldn't even be going there.
www.travel-news.org
Good source of independent news for British travellers.

FIND ACCOMMODATION?

www.placestostay.com
Whether it's the Bahamas or Bangkok, this should find you a suitable place to rest.
www.cottage-net.ndirect.co.uk
Fancy an away-from-it-all country cottage? Then try this huge self-catering database.
www.smoothhound.co.uk
A guide to B&Bs and hotels across the whole of the UK.

SPEND A DAY OUT IN BRITAIN?

www.LondonTown.com/index2.html
Everything there is to do and see in the Big Smoke.
www.virgin.net/daysout
Great ideas and tips for days out throughout the UK, from those helpful people at Virgin.
www.knowhere.co.uk
A brutally honest guide to the boring towns and backwaters of Great Britain.



Find yourself a bargain flight with Bob at deckchair.com

www.britainexpress.com
A jam-packed UK travel and heritage guide. Where to go, and lots of background info and articles on where you're going.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

uk.rec.caravanning
Classified ads and general caravanning chats.

JOIN A MAILING LIST?

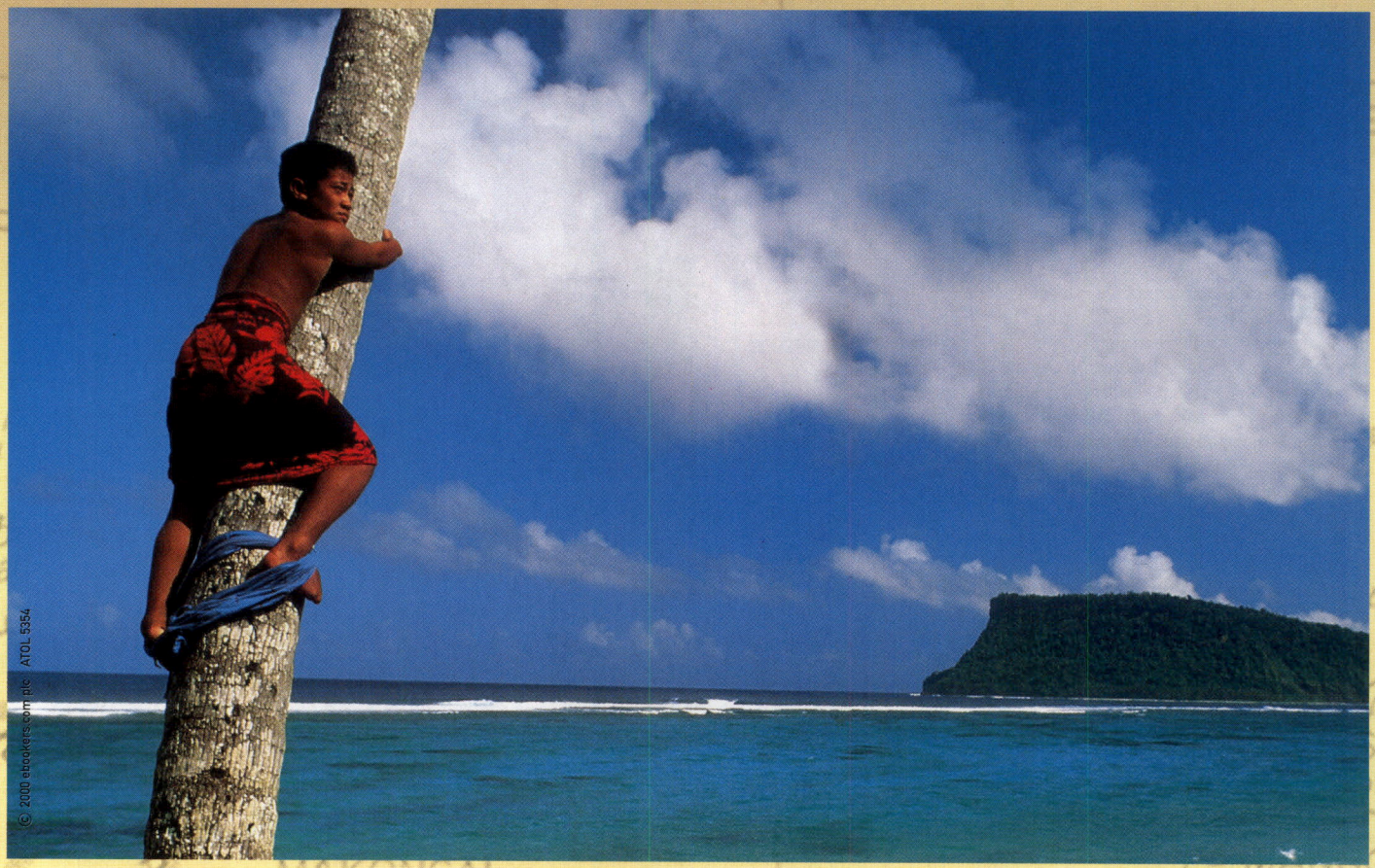
Join the Fresh Air list for hiking and camping discussion at ***Delta.Integral.org/mailman/listinfo/freshair***

GET CHATTING?

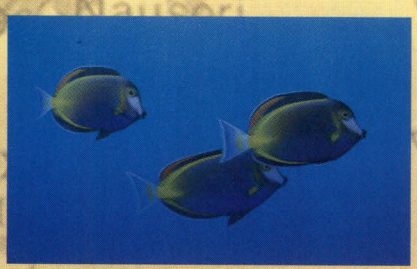
www.travelchannel.com
Wherever you've been or wherever you're going, you can talk about it and share travel tips here.

Looking for more Travel sites? Turn to Need To Know on page 114

WORDS: SUE WEEKES; PICTURES: MOVIESTORE COLLECTION, PA, REX FEATURES



Arriving here used to mean steering by the stars. Now you can get here with ebookers.com



Marvelous stuff, technology. A thousand years ago a notched stick and a knowledge of the constellations was enough to get you from the coast of the Americas to a tiny smudge in the middle of the Pacific.

Nowadays it's just as simple but far less risky. All you do is check out ebookers.com and immediately the world is just a few mouse clicks away.

The ebookers.com website has won awards for clarity and ease of use. Our home page gives you access to over four hundred airlines, thousands of hotel rooms and over fifty car rental companies worldwide.

All our flights are on scheduled airlines. The seats are the same, the inflight movie is the same. The only difference between a ticket from us and a ticket from someone else is that our ticket will invariably cost you less.

We're able to do this because we sell a lot of tickets, using our massive buying power and passing the discounts on to you.

It's the same approach we use when putting together packages to the sun, adventure holidays, round-the-world trips and city breaks. It's an approach that's already working for tens of thousands of happy travellers.

We know it will work for you. Remember, every journey begins with a single step. But your next journey could begin with a single click.

ebookers.com™
don't be here, be there

Anyone smell petrol?

ALFRESCO Summer's here, and the time is right... for dining in the great outdoors

Swampy's hatred of cars began at an early age

Dining Alfresco

www.savoirfaire.ca/episode_archive/tip_1.6.html ★★★

Nik Manojlovich's Dining Alfresco shows you the stylish way to eat your grub in the open air. However, although it includes recipes and some useful hints on, erm, choosing a beach brolly, the tone is a tad too optimistic for us – like 'The best flowers for your table arrangement'. We'd rather have tips on how to deal with wasps and the British weather, thank you very much.

'Step on my land again, boy...'

Food Safety in the Outdoors

www.tbc.csiro.au/amlc/food safety/outdoors.html ★★★

Eating outdoors carries its own dangers – and not just ants in your coleslaw. According to this Aussie page from the intriguingly-named Tropical Beef Centre, 'food-borne illness is a real risk.' Given that Australians are well-known for their barbecues, it's wise to follow the advice here to reduce the risk of a sudden visit to a nearby bush.

Recipe America Picnic Planner

www.recipeamerica.com/picnic.htm ★★★★

What's in a typical picnic hamper – floppy cheese sandwiches and a bottle of warm lemonade? Sorry, but today's cultivated basket is more haute cuisine than thrown-together food-stuffs. Recipe America will help you plan your picnics with a selection of tasty recipes. Some are complicated to the point of impossibility, but the barbie selection makes a change from dull old chicken drumsticks.

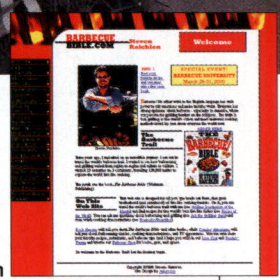
Vegetarian Society UK – Recipes

www.vegsoc.org/cordonvert/recipes/index.html ★★★

According to this site, 'meat-free barbecues can be a sumptuous, sensuous affair, a riot of complementary colours, flavours and textures.' Under the 'Summer' section comes a wealth of dishes suitable for alfresco occasions. But be prepared to put in a lot of time and, seemingly, money – one calls for four different types of lettuce; another, spoonfuls of brandy; a third, three pink roses. Bizarre, but very tasty – probably.

The Barbecue Bible

www.barbecuebible.com ★★★★★



thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

'Barbecue!' bellows the home page. 'No other word in the English language has such power to stir emotions.' Open-air grilling obviously arouses the passions of Steve Raichlen, an American cook whose appearance makes you wonder why he doesn't his own show about weather disasters on Channel 5. It's a great site, though, with recipes, barbie destination of the month and the Ten Barbecue Commandments. Things go haywire in the forum (strangely populated by people called 'Steve'), but as long as you don't mind heated debates over whether barbecuing food is immoral, you should be happy.

best food & drink sites ★★★★★ where can I...

BUY WINE ONLINE?

www.madaboutwine.com

Online shop with good case discounts to be had.

www.winecellar.co.uk

Internet arm of the high street store – email the Cellarman.

GET THE LATEST FOOD NEWS?

www.foodchannel.com

Get all the lowdown on new tastes, and find yourself an eaterie.

www.winedine.co.uk

Ezine focusing on food, drink and travel features.

BUY INGREDIENTS ONLINE?

www.tesco.co.uk/indexn.htm

Most innovative of the big online supermarkets, offering 'aisle cruising' and extra Clubcard points.

www.Groceries.org.uk

Finds the best and cheapest food for you, then delivers direct to the door.

LEARN ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD?

www.greenpeace.org/~geneng/

Learn how to avoid genetic foods, and where to protest...

www.foodbiotech.org/

...then take a look at the opposite side of the argument.

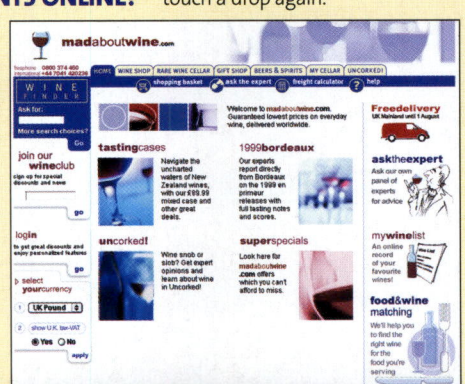
CURE MY HANGOVER?

www.TheVirtualBar.com

Some useful cures, plus a drinking glossary and bar tricks – try some and impress your friends.

www.wrecked.co.uk

Just one look at this drinking prevention page and you'll never touch a drop again.



Looking for that rare vintage? Try madaboutwine.com

FIND A COOL RESTAURANT?

www.london-restaurants.com

Locate a restaurant in the capital without spending the earth.

www.restaurants.co.uk

Search for an eatery or visit one of the site's recommendations.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

alt.food.barbecue

Swap tips on the art of barbecuing.

GET CHATTING?

www.barbecuen.com

Join the barbecue chat here.

WORDS: SARAH WAKELY; PICTURES: PA, REX

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www.thename.co.uk

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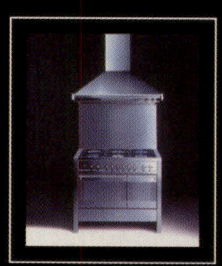
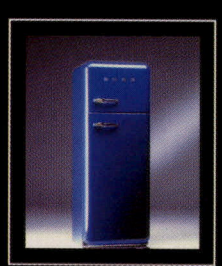
QUALITY • PRODUCTS





http://smeg-appliances.com

WELCOME TO TOMORROW

http://we-sell-it.co.uk

QUALITY • SERVICE

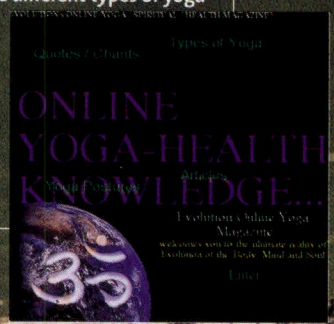
The frog turned into a handsome prince

Evolution Yoga Magazine

www.evonline.net ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

One of the most useful guides to yoga that you'll find on the Web: everything you ever needed to know (and possibly a bit more) is contained in this comprehensive online magazine. From the meaning of the different types of yoga through to chants, meditation and quotes – plus a yogic glossary with useful pronunciation tips for those tricky Sanskrit names – it's all thoroughly explained. Don't be scared off by the rather energetic figure demonstrating the range of postures, however.



Are you in your happy place?

YOGA It's not all meditation and impossible positions. There's a serious side to yoga, too...

Astanga Yoga

www.astangayoga.co.uk ★★★★

Currently exercise *du jour* in Hollywood, astanga, or power yoga (as favoured by Madonna), is more physical than the traditional version. Explained in-depth at this informative site, the 'About Astanga' section includes the chilling phrase 'where there is no effort there is no benefit'; if that isn't enough to make you think twice, the site features random pictures of a practitioner in postures that are, quite frankly, alarming. You have been warned.

Devon School Of Yoga

www.devonyoga.com

★★★★

'Take just a moment to relax... Take a long deep breath... Put your worries to one side...' And with these soothing words you are welcomed to the Web site of Devon (yes, that hotbed of karmic activity) Yoga's home page. 'Yoga: a way of life' is the centre's philosophy, and it certainly pulls out all the stops to make this a reality; holiday retreats, a shop, classes, teacher training – they've got the lot. Remember: 'The ultimate Guru is the universal Guru within oneself.' Quite.

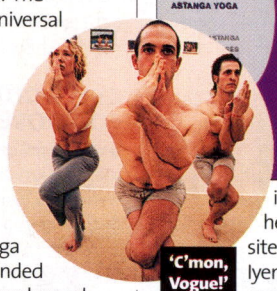
Quicksand yoga never caught on...

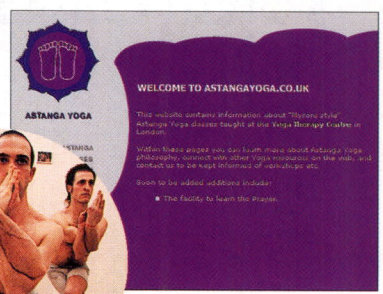
Ivengar Yoga Institute

www.iyi.org.uk

★★★★

BKS Iyengar is something of a legend in yoga circles. He not only founded one of the most commonly used ways of practising yoga (developed when he himself was dying; he's now 80 and still going strong) but is renowned for his healing abilities. This site belongs to the Iyengar Institute and goes into detail about both the method and its founder; it also gives details of classes at the centre, located in leafy Maida Vale, London – again, not a place previously known for spiritual refreshment. Links direct you to Iyengar centres worldwide.





Roots & Wings

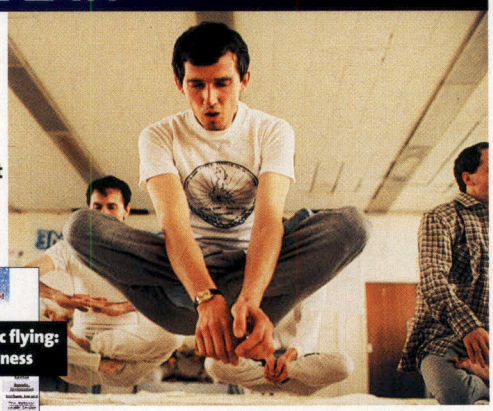
www.yoga.com ★★★

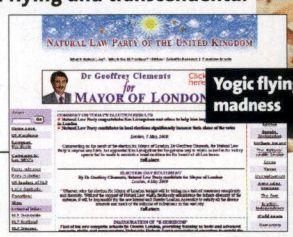
A handy little introduction to yoga for all budding yogis. Puzzling questions such as 'What is yoga?' are answered, plus you can read all about restorative postures and ethical guidelines, and frequently-used-but-baffling terms such as hatha yoga, yoga sutra (yes, *yoga* sutra) and asanas are fully

THE POLITICS OF YOGA

FOLLOW THE NATURAL LAW

It's obvious: the answer to all of society's problems is there in front of us – well, according to the Natural Law Party, anyway. Natural Law is, apparently, the 'intelligence that maintains the evolution of everything in the universe' (of course), and the problems arise through the violation of that Natural Law. So best read up about the Natural Law Party (*www.natural-law-party.org.uk*) and learn how you can help eliminate these violations – yogic flying and transcendental meditation seem to be the best ways – and generally bring life into harmony. Go on – pay a visit and find some fulfilment today.





Yogic flying: madness

explained. But the why-oh-why award for waste of space goes to the 'humor' section – don't even bother having a look.

Siddha Yoga

www.siddhayoga.org ★★

Want to uplift humanity? End the suffering of the world through knowledge of the inner self? Well, log on here, as this is definitely the site for you. The best way to even think of accomplishing those modest aims is apparently through meditation – Siddha Yoga meditation, that is. Siddha Yoga gurus have the power to awaken the spiritual energy of seekers (it says here), so if you fancy doing something different on a wet Saturday afternoon, be sure to check this out.

Yoga In Daily Life

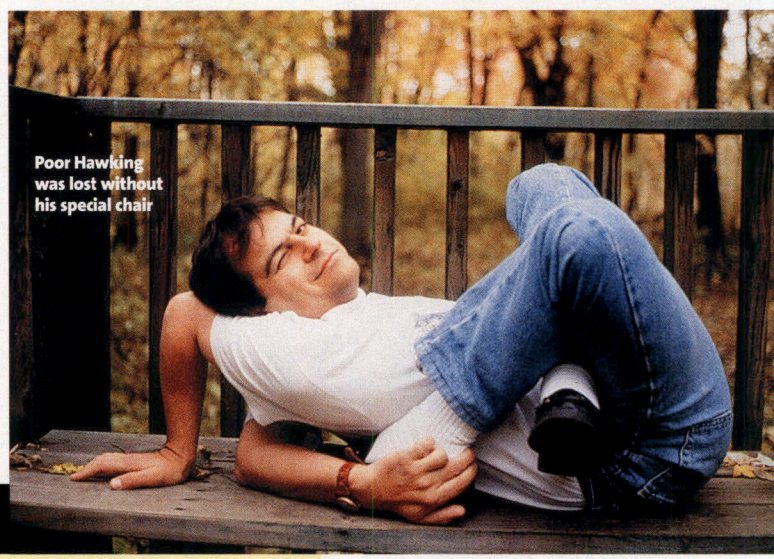
www.yoga-in-daily-life.org ★★

The site's home page greets you with a few probing questions, essentially along the lines of 'Who am I?', 'Why did I come?', 'Where will I go?' – that kind of thing. Answers to these are necessary if you want to achieve liberation (and who doesn't?), so have a few ideas in mind as you wander around this, the official site of the International Sri Deep Madhavananda Ashram Fellowship. Information about the fellowship and its spiritual lineage is provided, but sorry, you'll have to come up with the answers to the questions yourself. And do try not to be put off by the strange bearded bloke.

Yoga Plus

www.yogaplus.co.uk ★★★

Due to its miniature print this could have been written in hieroglyphics for all we know, but what we did manage to decipher seemed pretty appealing. Yoga Plus runs two-week courses at their centre in Crete, where you can choose from an array of activities including t'ai chi, shiatsu massage, Pilates... or you can do absolutely nothing at all. But be warned: the courses are aimed at 'developing personal potential' and it focuses on astanga yoga, so expect to have to work.



Poor Hawking was lost without his special chair

best health sites ★★★★★

where can I...

GET AN ONLINE DIAGNOSIS?

www.intelihealth.com
A full and frank site to help solve your problems.
www.mayo.edu
Confess your fears to the resident doctor and have them put to rest.
www.quackwatch.com
Shows how to heal naturally.
www.pathfinder.com/drweil
The most celebrated online doctor.

The alternative at www.thinknatural.com

LOSE SOME WEIGHT?

uk.weightwatchers.com
Find out how to shed extra pounds.
www.3fatchicks.com
Recipes and nutritional information, from people who should know.
www.fitnessonline.com
Plan a low-calorie fitness regime.
www.healthyideas.com
Rate your present diet and exercise regime, then learn how to lose more.

CHECK OUT A HEALTH CONTROVERSY?

www.viagra.com
Information on *that* drug.
www.bpas.demon.co.uk
British Pregnancy Advisory Service deals with all sorts of questions.
www.monsanto.co.uk
The GM company defends itself.
www.baps.co.uk
The lowdown on cosmetic surgery.

FIND AN OFFICIAL HEALTH SITE?

www.doh.gov.uk/nhsexec/direct.htm
How to get help via NHS Direct.
www.bma.org.uk
Info on how to become a doctor.
www.dentalhealth.org.uk
Dentistry queries answered online.
www.bupa.co.uk
Get some private healthcare.

TRY AN ALTERNATIVE?

www.thinknatural.com
Shop offering alternative remedies and beauty products.
www.altguide.com
Find an alternative therapist, or check out the books on offer.
www.homeopathyhome.com
A search engine, a library, chats, an education section and enticing ads.
www.osteopathy.org.uk/index.htm
Go to this site to get that bad back sorted out.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

alt.yoga
The yoga newsgroup deals with 'all forms and aspects of yoga', apparently.

JOIN A MAILING LIST?

Get on the healing and meditation list at ***www.harmonyland.com/healing_net_mailing_list.htm***

GET CHATTING?

globalthink.com/yogachat.htm
Take a deep breath and discuss yoga with others who are in touch with their inner self.

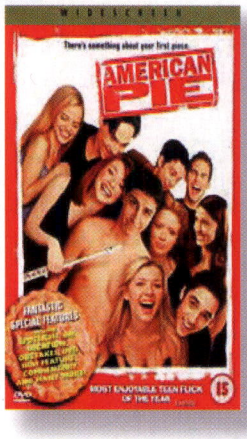
Looking for more Health sites? Turn to Need To Know on page 114

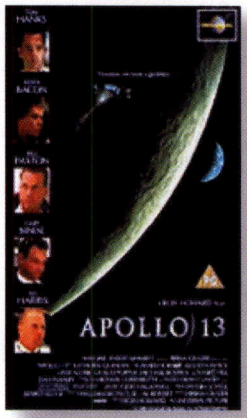
Yoga Without Tree Hugging

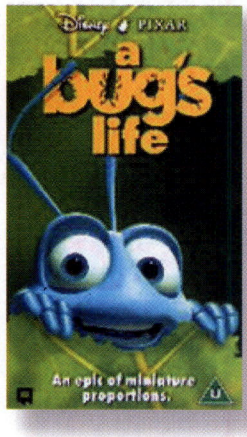
www.zenyoga.co.uk ★★★★

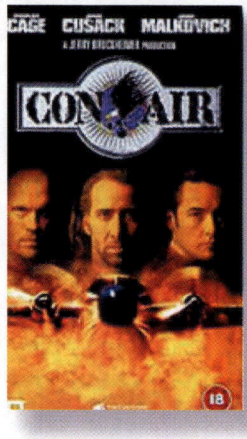
For all you nervous types, assurance comes in the guise of this Web site from Paul Bancroft, a yoga teacher from Bristol. With a well laid-out and easily navigable site, Mr Bancroft puts us at ease with a brief summary of yoga philosophy and postures; the shots of 'ordinary' people at his class, though, are presumably meant to be reassuring, but the jury's still out on that one. However, if you like your yoga with 'no incense burners, mantras or embarrassing moments', Paul's your man.

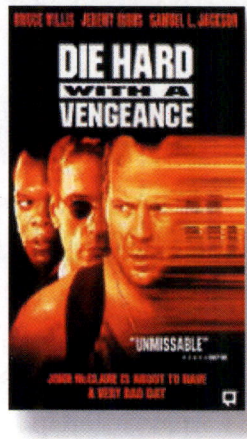
WORDS: CLAIRE MCHATTIE; PICTURES: PA, REX



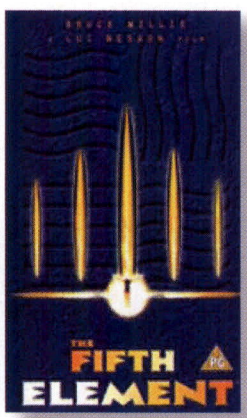


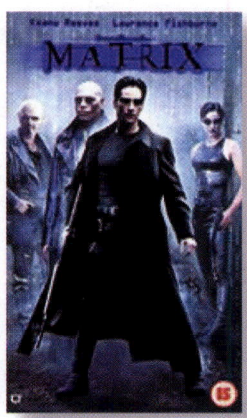


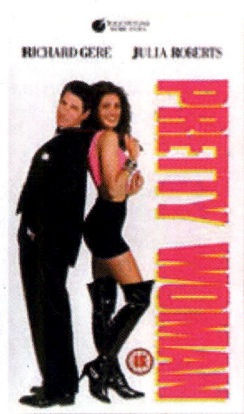


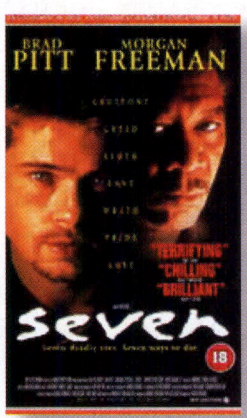


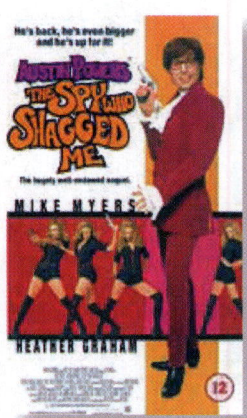
The Biggest Blockbusters At Their Best!

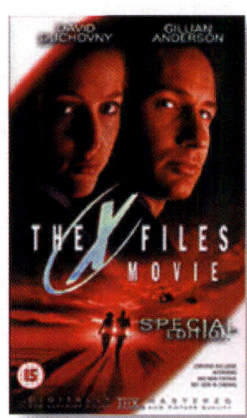












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Playing with Monopoly money

VIRTUAL CASH Even if your finances make Harold Steptoe look like Bill Gates, you can play the markets

Free hand not included

Edinburgh University Investment Club

www.digiserve.co.uk/tradingclub/index.html ★★★

Ideal for all Gordon McGecko wannabes north of the border: not only can you join in the next trading game but you're also welcome to attend club meetings to pick up tips. Their second trading game has now finished, with the EUIC Cup going to a Mr Alan Hay who made a profit of just under £21,000. A new game will start soon.

E*Trade Game

www.etrade.com ★★★★

Here's another chance to test your stock market smarts without risking a dime – but if you want to be a Master of the Universe you need to get used to playing for real cash. E*Trade gives you a $100,000 virtual account, teaches you how to spend and, if you learn quick, you could win a cash prize or even... a T-shirt.

It was no fun playing Gates at poker

Fantasy Stock Market

www.fantasystockmarket.com ★★★★

On a mission to educate and entertain the investors of tomorrow, Fantasy Stock Market is a close runner-up to this month's Five-Star Site. Expertly organised, this site is packed with essential information for investors, who can then test their knowledge in a variety of games and win prizes.

Final Bell

www.sandbox.com/finalbell/pub-doc/home.html ★★★

A no-holds-barred online sim – gratis from the Sandbox games zone – and as real as it gets. Go head-to-head with other sharks competing to make the most of £100k. This isn't for the faint-hearted, although the 'Market Maven' is on hand to offer advice.

Imperial College Virtual Trading Game

www.su.ic.ac.uk/finance/game.html ★★★

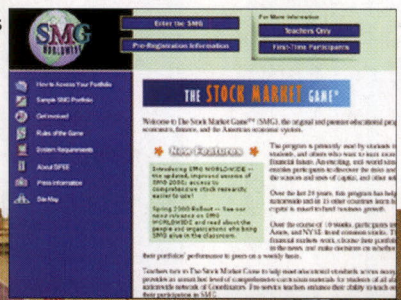
This is the test-tube stock market, where the boffins at London University's Imperial College try out their investment strategies and dream about going short on the latest dotcom with their rent money. Although UK-based, the trading is on the US markets.

The Stock Market Game

www.smg2000.org ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

A very impressive educational resource; six million acolytes in 15 countries have learnt how to invest playing the Stock Market Game. Over the course of 10 weeks, you will invest a virtual $100,000 in Nasdaq, Amex, and NYSE-listed common stocks. You get to research stocks, study how the financial markets work, choose your portfolios, manage your budgets, follow companies in the news, and make the decisions on whether to buy, sell, or hold. The clever money is on anyone who takes this seriously.



Invest Smart's Market Simulation

library.thinkquest.org/10326/market_simulation/index.html ★★★★

Top-notch site for the level-headed

The Diddymen were poor losers

'Lend us a tenner'

newbie. Designed by those nice people at Invest Smart to teach you the investment fundamentals that every big swinging dick needs to know. There are four different simulations, with detailed tutorials on each and real-life examples. The simulations and investment lessons are so good that 10,000 school classes have so far signed up for this excellent initiation in the mysteries of Wall Street.

Bros: spent money like water

The Great Game

www.thegreatgame.com

★★★

Fancy a chance to win on the London stock market without risking your shirt? You have £10K in your TGG virtual account, what are you doing to do? Will 'Building & Construction' take off, or is the safe money in 'Diversified Industrials'. 'Property' looks to be recovering this quarter. Should I sell my 'Oil Exploration & Production' and go big with it, or take a flyer in 'Tech'? It's your call – it might be fantasy money and a virtual portfolio, but the gameplay is as real as it comes. Get it right and there are big prizes.

'Let's look at what you could have won'

Virtual Stock Exchange

www.virtualstockexchange.com

★★★★

Whether you want to be a day-trader living by the seat of your pants, or a Warren Buffet-style investor in for the long-haul, there's a game for you here, and 150,000 other traders to take on. The Virtual Stock Exchange is host to lots of different stock market challenges, all with different trading rules.

Wall Street Raider

www.roninsoft.com/prodo2.htm

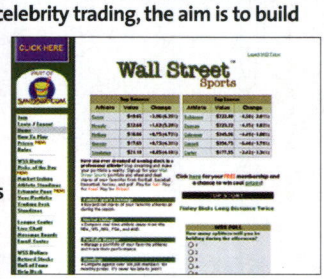
★★★

Virtual trading might be free, but it can be hard on your phone bills. For less than a tenner you can buy Ronin Software's *Wall Street Raider* or try out a free shareware version. The emphasis here is more on fun than realism; the aim is to graduate from being an investor to a corporate raider, staying one stop ahead of the Justice Department!

STOCKS AND STARS

'SELL WINTON!'

If risking large sums of virtual money on blue chips doesn't whet your appetite, you're interested in fame as much as fortune, and you like a more unusual investment, then you might want to put your trading skills to the test buying and selling Madonnas, Clintons, or – for the true connoisseur – Virginie Ledoyens. In celebrity trading, the aim is to build up a portfolio of the rich and famous, buying low and selling high. At *roguemarket.com*, Jodie Foster was up 8.21 points this morning, but no movement on Tony Blair – might be time to sell. Alternatively, try selling some sports stars at *www.wallstreetsports.com* or using the Hollywood Stock Exchange (*www.hsx.com*).



best money sites ★★★★★

where can I...

LEARN ABOUT INVESTING?

www.citywire.co.uk
Company news and advice.
www.fool.co.uk
Advice for the learner investor.
www.armchairmillionaire.com
Guide to making a million.

GET FINANCIAL ANALYSIS?

www.invweek.co.uk
Advice from *Investment Week*.
www.eye4money.com
UK and US financial information – plus a share simulation game.
www.hemscott.com
Get access to a veritable mine of analysis.

GET MONEY NEWS AND SHARE PRICES?

www.ft.com
This is the mother of all money sites.
www.bloomberg.co.uk
The latest, up-to-date data for professionals.
www.sharepages.com
Rapidly updated prices, and news from all markets.

TRADE SHARES?

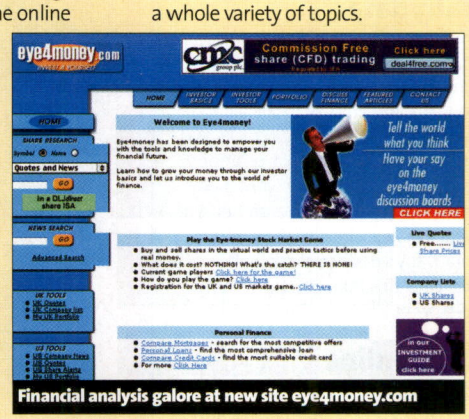
www.stocktrade.co.uk
Dealers in UK stocks, offering real-time prices; try the online share trading demo.
www.barclays-stockbrokers.co.uk
Another option for real-time share dealing.
www.forex-cmc.co.uk
First online foreign-exchange dealer.

SORT OUT MY FINANCES?

www.thisismoney.com
Online personal finance adviser, there to help you with your cash problems.
www.iii.co.uk
Advice for individual investors and help with finance.
www.moneyunlimited.co.uk
Financial advice, portfolio building and a resource guide from *The Guardian*.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

uk.finance
Discussion, chat and advice on a whole variety of topics.



Financial analysis galore at new site eye4money.com

GET CHATTING?

investor.msn.com
Join in the fun that is *Microsoft Money* and chat with other online finance fans around the world.

Looking for more Money sites? Turn to Need To Know on page 114

WORDS: CHRIS HADLEY; PICTURES: IMAGEBANK, REX

The Brits judges waited patiently for Geri to appear

It's the end of the world as you know it

PREGNANCY Waiting to hear the pitter-patter of tiny feet? Best check out the Internet before your life changes forever. For the better, of course...

Babydata

www.babydata.com ★★★

Masses of information for those who are pregnant or who want to be, including an ovulation calendar personalised to your own cycle, and tips on timings and, erm, positions to try if you specifically want a boy or a girl. There's also comprehensive week-by-week information about your baby's development, and plenty of tips for expectant mums on how to look after themselves.

Babyonline

www.babyonline.com ★★★★

With an excellent library of health-related articles, plus discussion forums covering almost every aspect of those oh-so-important nine months, this site is definitely worth a browse. It also has a useful consumer watchdog section identifying unsafe products for you and your child – although much of it's biased towards the US.

'Congratulations, Mr S. It's a small tube'

The Baby Registry

www.thebabyregistry.co.uk ★★★★

Practical advice and health fact-sheets about what to expect during the different stages of pregnancy. Antenatal care is discussed in depth, and there are helpful tips from other mothers – although the checklist for what to pack to take with you to the hospital is so extensive that you might need to hire a van to get it all in.

Playing footie with the Culkin ball proved difficult

The Baby Shop

www.thetotalbabyshop.co.uk ★★★

The trend for all things green continues with organic cotton baby clothes, plus additive- and pesticide-free baby food – although the inclusion of 'Provencal Vegetables' as one of the flavours does suggest the people behind this site are aiming at a certain (upmarket) income bracket. Their range of toys is limited, but has

National Childbirth Trust

www.nct-online.org ★★★★

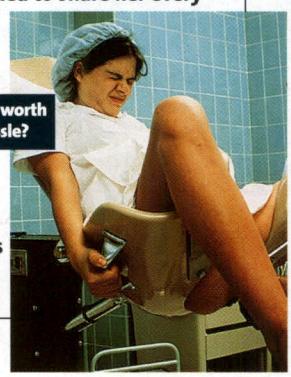
The Web site of the National Childbirth Trust offers a vast amount of medical and alternative information about pregnancy to complement their country-wide antenatal classes. The aim is to help parents make informed choices about which type of labour they'd prefer, what kind of pain relief is available, and offer help with breastfeeding.

'Nightie? Check. Sandwich? Check'

BLOW-BY-BLOW CHILDBIRTH

FEEL THE PAIN!

There's nothing quite like experiencing the miracle of birth first-hand. Well, in the US, to share is all. And Gina (*www.concentric.net/~mpixels/pregjournal*) has generously decided to share her every moment of pregnancy with us, including ultrasound pictures emblazoned with an 'I love you' message from the foetus itself. Adorable. You also get to see how she's decorated the nursery in a *Cow Jumped Over the Moon* theme, plus links to various sites and suggestions of where to go for pregnancy chat. Her baby is due in August, so it's all a work in progress, but expect an awful lot of pictures and gushing prose to be to be uploaded as soon as she downloads, so to speak.



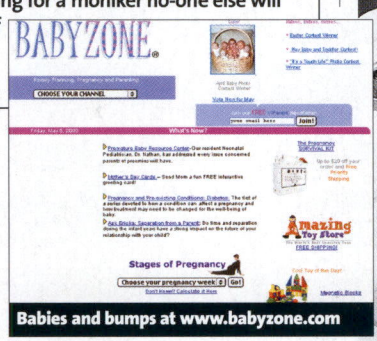
Is it really worth all the hassle?

Babyzone

www.babyzone.com ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

Read about extraordinary birth stories, ask obstetrician Doctor DiLeo a question and check out the baby photo competition for proof that, by and large, a mother's love is truly blind. There's also a selection of baby announcements to email to friends and family. Most fun of the lot, however, is the baby naming page, which even has a Shakespearean section for those searching for a moniker no-one else will have thought of. How about Bardolph if you really want your child to be bullied at school?



Babies and bumps at www.babyzone.com

Net Doctor: Pregnancy & Childbirth

www.netdoctor.co.uk/pregnancy_parenting ★★★

A hugely useful site about medical issues. Articles on anaesthesia (the description of an epidural isn't for the squeamish), caesareans and birth defects may not make happy reading, but they are invaluable for parents who want to be fully informed. For light relief they have included a Baby Name Roulette game for parents who are having trouble making that all-important decision.

Bungee jumping was rubbish before elastic

Radical Midwives Homepage

www.radmid.demon.co.uk ★★★

The Association of Radical Midwives might sound scary, but they are more interested in presenting the case for antenatal care and childbirth to return to its more natural, non-medical roots. Their Web site provides an excellent overview of what a midwife's role during pregnancy and labour is, plus articles on home births and other alternative approaches.

been carefully tested to be safe for even the smallest fingers and mouths.

Babyworld

www.babyworld.co.uk ★★★

Plenty of news, competitions, conception tips, diaries and information on what to expect during labour (a great deal of pain, probably). There's also a terrific folklore page where you can find out if your grandmother was right or merely barking, and an excellent section for new fathers to share their experiences of birth, both positive and negative.

Blooming Marvellous

www.bloomingmarvellous.co.uk ★★★

Just because you're three sizes bigger than usual doesn't mean you can't shop. Blooming Marvellous offers a good selection of maternity clothing, as well as nursery kit and adorable baby clothes – the 2000 Keepsake t-shirt may not fit for long, but it's a sweet way to make a Millennium baby feel special.

best kids sites ★★★★★

where can I...

FIND KIDS' TV SITES?

www.citv.co.uk

The fun begins here with all your childrens' TV favourites, from *Dog and Duck* to *The Wombles*.

www.bbc.co.uk/education/home

Will guide you towards all BBC kids' TV favourites, plus Schools Online.

BUY TOYS ONLINE?

www.toysrus.co.uk

Offers easy shopping access to all the big brand-name toys.

www.funstore.co.uk

A real house of fun for those in search of toys.

www.etoys.co.uk

Well-organised online toy shop with handy 'favourite toy' finder.

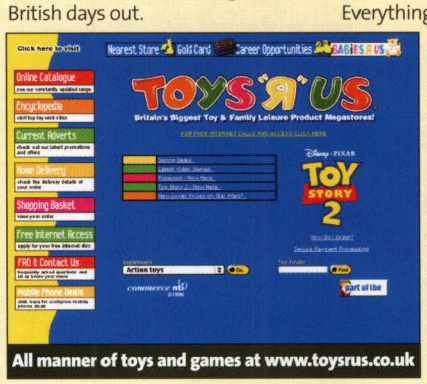
FIND IDEAS FOR DAYS OUT?

www.bbc.co.uk/ukok

The BBC does it again with this guide to fun for the holidays.

www.virgin.net/daysout

Masses of ideas for those great British days out.



All manner of toys and games at www.toysrus.co.uk

FIND BEDTIME STORIES?

www.home-office-mall.com/bedtime-story

Stories you can print out.

www.bedtimebooks.com

A bit worthy, but worth a look.

FIND TEENAGE SITES?

www.teen-scene.com

Everything for the well-wired teenager.

www.teen-net.com

Innovative teen portal.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

misc.kids.pregnancy

Get together with other would-be mums.

JOIN A MAILING LIST?

Join the Pregnancy discussion list – mark email 'subscribe pregnant' to ***listserv@maelstrom.stjohns.edu***.

GET CHATTING?

www.women.com/pregnancy

A selection of rooms for the expecting or the expectant.

WORDS: VICTORIA WILLIAMS; PICTURES: IMAGEBANK, KOBAL, MOVIESTORE COLLECTION, REX

your safety net on the net

The Net, or Web, is a largely unregulated place.

Even governments can't control the information flow, which is great for free speech and freedom of expression.

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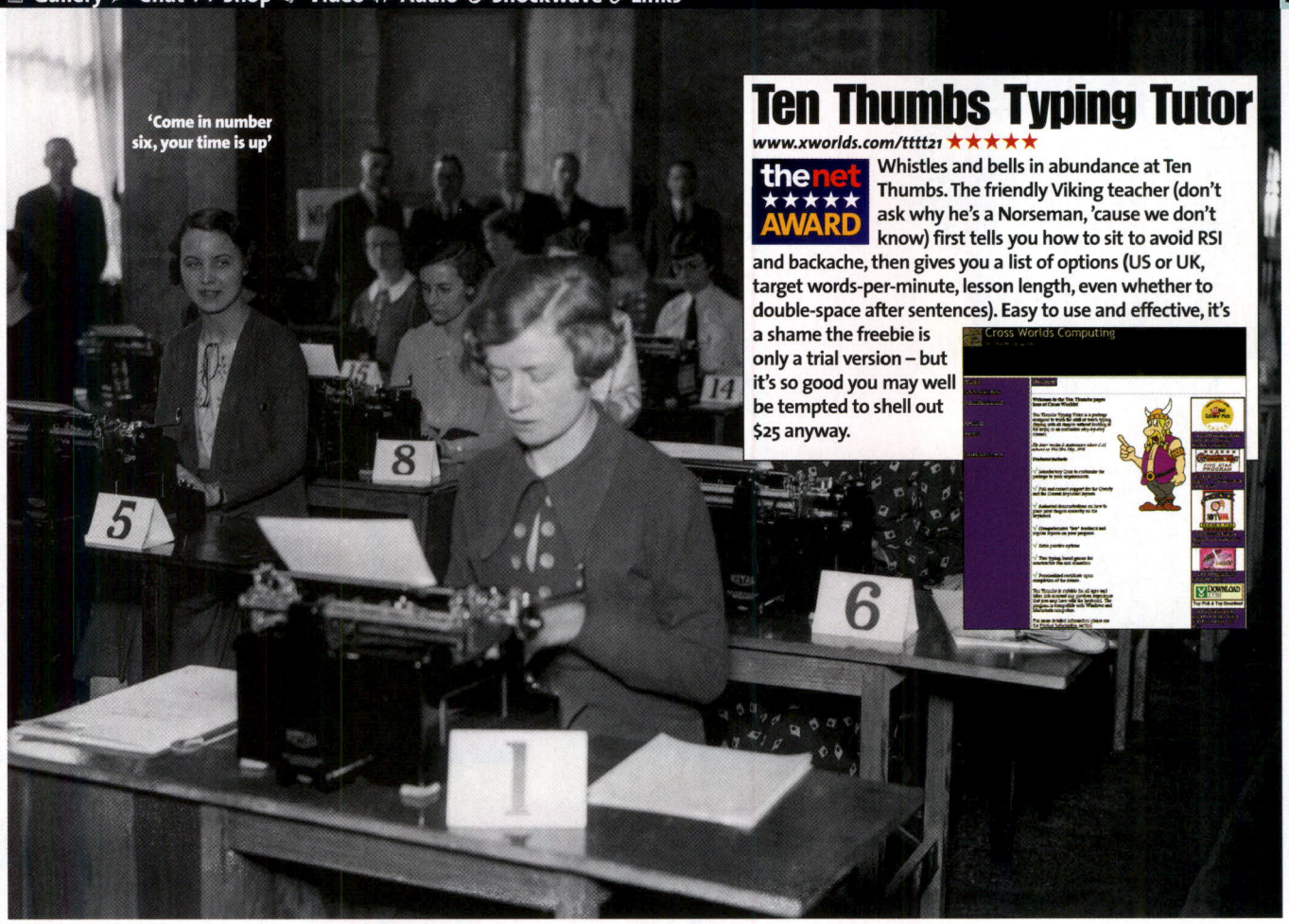


Ten Thumbs Typing Tutor

www.xworlds.com/tttt21 ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

Whistles and bells in abundance at Ten Thumbs. The friendly Viking teacher (don't ask why he's a Norseman, 'cause we don't know) first tells you how to sit to avoid RSI and backache, then gives you a list of options (US or UK, target words-per-minute, lesson length, even whether to double-space after sentences). Easy to use and effective, it's a shame the freebie is only a trial version – but it's so good you may well be tempted to shell out $25 anyway.

The quick brown fox...

TYPING Sharpen those keyboard skills – by sitting in front of your keyboard

Easytype

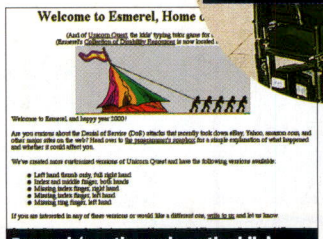
www.easytype.com ★★★★

Fun and functional, Easytype caters for three age ranges (kids, teens and adults) and takes you away from the middle-row homekeys earlier than most online tutors. You're guided by two cartoon characters, a bespectacled boy and a dapper dog, but their banter is seldom amazingly amusing – and soon begins to irritate when it impedes this somewhat ponderous site's progress to the next lesson.

Esmerel on the Web

www.esmerel.com ★★★

Sister site esmerel.org is a leading disability resource, and the typing tutor here is configurable for several missing digits – as well as the full 10. Kids and former VIC-20 RPG fans will enjoy the story-line running through the typing games, in which a child has to find a unicorn for a wizard by entering castles, etc. Worthy and worthwhile.



Esmerel: 'worthy and worthwhile'

Typing Master

www.typingmaster.com ★★★★

Fun for all the family, regardless of typing ability. A one-minute test will decide whether which of the two free demo tutors you'll be heading for: the ProTrainer or the 2001 Typing Tutor. All this and three colourful games, too.

Typing Tutor

www.cs.cmu.edu/~rvirga/TypingTutor.html ★★★

Refreshingly easy to launch, Typing Tutor presents itself through a pop-up window. The game employs a *Tetris* tactic: letters fall down the screen and you type them or get squashed – *and* you can choose at what speed they fall.

best learning sites ★★★★★ where can I...

LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE?

www.travlang.com
70 languages to learn online.

www.freetranslation.com
Translate those tricky phrases – for free.

www.ipl.org/youth/hello
Learn 30 languages free of charge.

LEARN A USEFUL SKILL?

www.how2.com
How to do almost anything.

www.learnfree.com
Learn with RealVideo tutorials.

FIND EXAM RESOURCES?

www.topmarks.co.uk
Help with hundreds of topics.

www.kevinsplayroom.co.uk
Boasts links for every school subject going.

www.learn.co.uk
Help for five- to 19-year-olds.

www.bjpinchbeck.com
The famous home-work helper.

Speak the lingo – freetranslation.com

LEARN AN INSTRUMENT?

www.pianoworld.com
Tickle those ivories like a pro.

www.cyberfret.com
The 'online college of guitar wisdom'. Tutorials and chords available here.

www.v-zone.com/tpo/ Trumpet.html
Blow your own trumpet on the Net. A comprehensive and thorough guide to the subject.

LEARN WITHOUT SCHOOL?

www-icdl.open.ac.uk
The OU have expanded onto the Internet.

www.tele-school.org
Learn online and interact, too.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

alt.windows98
Learn how to use Microsoft's systems more efficiently.

GET CHATTING?

www.cup.com/bm7/cribe.htm
Still can't type? Then you need the Chat Room In Broken English.

WORDS: GARY PARKINSON; PICTURES: REX, GETTY

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Mel Gibson's dad got in on the act, too

Who do you want to be today?

ROLE-PLAYING GAMES Escape into a fantasy world of witches, goblins and ghouls with the Web's best RPGs

Baulder's Gate II

www.interplay.com/bgate2 ★★★

Normally we'd shy away from dull, corporate, official sites, but when checking developments on an eagerly-awaited sequel like *Baulder's Gate II* they're the best places for reliable information. Initial signs are that the game will look like the original – but with a more story-led narrative, stronger character development and more fantastic locations. *Shadows Of Amn* should please fans and converts alike.

DarkSword (Dungeon Keeper II)

www.dkeeper2.net ★★★★

Fancy playing on the dark side for a change? The *Dungeon Keeper* series allows you to kick the holier-than-thou-backside of those annoying heroes, as you make damn sure they don't escape your labyrinthine penitentiary by setting your minions upon them. This well-stocked site has both official and unofficial add-ons, allowing you to dramatically extend your playing time.

Diablo II Net

www.diabloii.net ★★★★

It looks like being a hot summer for dedicated *Diablo* fans with the release of the diabolic *Diablo II*. Following on from the original – I'm not going to spoil the ending for novices – this second instalment is destined for great things. Keep up to date at this excellent site and if all goes to plan, you'll soon be able to start playing for real.

Final Fantasy

www.ffonline.com ★★★★

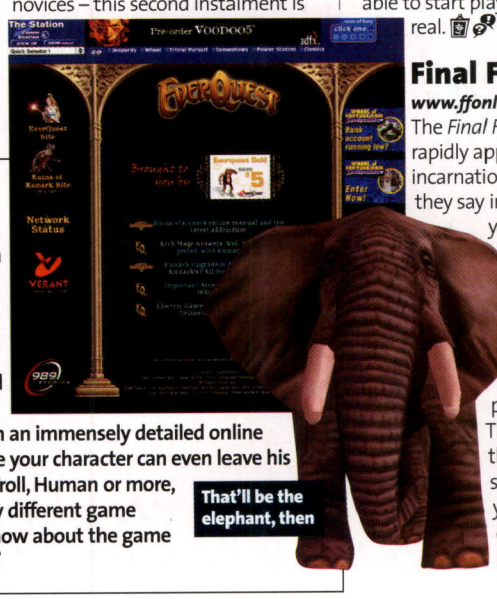
The *Final Fantasy* series is rapidly approaching its ninth incarnation – or number IX, as they say in RPG circles. Here you can keep tabs on developments to this latest instalment of the massive online saga, or look back at previous episodes. There are walk-throughs, guides and screen shots, and if you're new to *FF* you can download a demo for a taster.

EverQuest

www.everquest.com ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

EverQuest is more than just a computer game – it's a long-term commitment. Rather like an intense relationship, you can't just pick it up, have a quick dabble and then forget it for a few weeks; you have to interact over long periods with an immensely detailed online world – it takes dozens of hours before your character can even leave his hometown. You can play as Elf, Ogre, Troll, Human or more, and each character will give you a very different game experience. Everything you need to know about the game is right here on this site.



That'll be the elephant, then

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smile the internet bank

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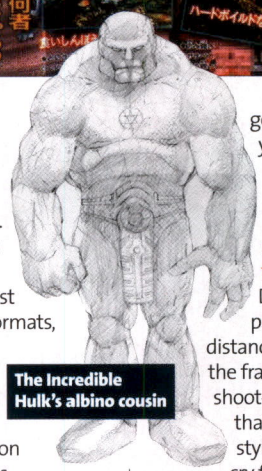
Gross means the contractual rate of interest payable before the deduction of income tax at the specified by law. AER means annual equivalent rate and is the notional rate which illustrates the contractual interest rate as if paid and compounded on an annual basis. Interest is credited monthly. smile current accounts require a minimum monthly credit of £1000. Interest rates are variable. Interest rates and APRs on personal loans are fixed for the term of the loan. Written quotations are available on request from smile at PO Box 600, Delf House, Skelmersdale, WN8 6GF. Credit facilities are subject to status and not available to anyone under 18 years of age. The Co-operative Bank p.l.c. reserves the right to decline any application. All interest rates correct at 11.02.00.

RPG Gamer

www.rpgamer.com

★★★

If you're into RPGs then this site is made for you. It has up-to-the-minute rumours, gossip and official press on the latest titles for all the major formats, plus informed editorials to dispute, screen savers to download and fan art to laugh at. But while the information and attention to detail is impeccable, design and style leave something to be desired.



The Incredible Hulk's albino cousin

RPG Maker

www.rpgmaker.net ★★★★

Bored with the standard RPG fare that major games companies keep churning out? Well, get off your backside and do something about it with the help of the RPG Maker site. Here you can download tools, editors and a complete game engine to design your own RPG. Apparently no programming knowledge is needed, so now you've got no excuse – unless you've got a job, a partner, a life...

RPG Planet

www.rpgplanet.com

★★★★

Devotees of role-playing games like to distance themselves from the frag-happy players of 3D shoot-em-ups. And it's true that the more cerebral style of the former is a far cry from 'let's kill everything' approach of the latter. It's fitting, then, that this comprehensive site has a more sedate feel than its bloodthirsty brethren. No matter what your RPG poison, you'll find it covered here.

Ultima Online

www.uo.com ★★★★

Ultima Online is to *EverQuest* what *Doom* is to *Unreal Tournament*. This massive game proved you could have thousands of people playing online together. Even if the gameplay and visuals leave something to be desired, the fact that it's still being played at all after three years must mean something. *Ultima* might be diminishing in popularity as new games arrive, but it's still worth checking out, if only for historical research.

best games sites ★★★★★

where can I...

PLAY GAMES ONLINE?

www.shockwave.com
Shocked games and cartoons.
www.gameplay.com
Britain's biggest and best online gaming site.
www.gameszone.com
Free service covering all of Europe.
www.theclq.com/main.asp
The Champions League of *Quake*.

BUY GAMES ONLINE?

www.gamesstreet.infront.co.uk
A wide range of savings.
www.game-retail.co.uk
From the high-street retailer of the same name.
www.chipsworld.co.uk
The best selection of console games on the Web.
www.simplygames.co.uk
Worth checking for cheap prices.

FIND DEMOS?

www.happypuppy.com
The newest demos and shareware games.
www.gameaddict.net
A range of demos and reviews for PC games.
www.3dfiles.com
Demos and shareware downloads of the latest and best games.
www.acdownload.com
Plenty of great downloads.

FIND HINTS AND CHEATS?

www.gamefaqs.com
An encyclopedia of advice for games.
www.xcheater.com
The latest cheats for new games.
www.cheatstation.com
Cheats and ever-so-helpful hints.
totalgames.net
Hints and tips plus news and views.

FIND GAMING NEWS?

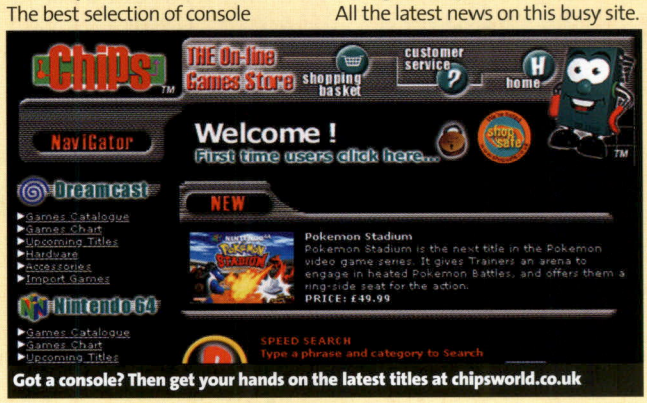
www.gamesdomain.co.uk
News and game-related features.
www.gamedaily.com
All the latest news on this busy site.
www.ign.com
Thorough worldwide games news.
www.bluesnews.com
In-depth articles and features.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

uk.games.roleplay
Discuss your RPG passion here.

GET CHATTING?

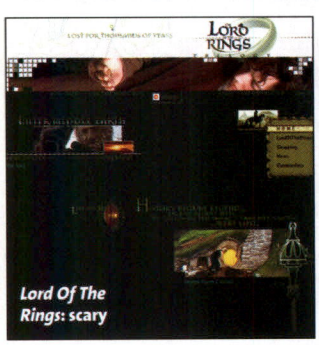
www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Arcade/6469/chat.html
A good, well-maintained *Quake* chat room.



Got a console? Then get your hands on the latest titles at chipsworld.co.uk

THE ORCMASTER

THE TOLKIEN EFFECT



Lord Of The Rings: scary

As sure as an Orc is evil, RPGs owe a massive debt to JRR Tolkien's *Lord Of The Rings*. That colourful fantasy stuff about Goblins, Elves, Wizards and Dwarves, which characterises RPG games, is all there in black and white. And starting next year you won't even have to struggle through all six books in three volumes – because the *Lord of The Rings* trilogy is coming to the big screen. Yes, it has happened before, but try to ignore the last compressed effort; marvel instead at the streaming trailer for Peter Jackson's epic screen adaptation of the saga that was recently voted Book Of The Century. Visit *www.lordoftherings.net/home* to see it in full.

'Now for a spot of lunch...'

Zelda

www.linkhouse.net/zelda64/down.htm ★★★

For ages you could taunt N64 owners simply by saying 'and when is *Zelda* going to be released?' The game took so long that even Godot's mates bought a PlayStation and *Final Fantasy VII* instead. But then *The Ocarina of Time* arrived – and it still ranks as one of the finest RPGs ever, and the best on the N64.

WORDS: SHAUN MARIN; PICTURES: PA

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		child ticket	@ £4 each	£
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		child ticket	@ £4 each	£
Saturday 23 September		adult ticket	@ £8 each	£
		child ticket	@ £4 each	£
Sunday 24 September		adult ticket	@ £8 each	£
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Valid from / / Expiry Date / /

Issue No (Switch only) ☐☐

Signature ..... Date .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Post code ..... Tel: .....

Email: .....

* Purchase four adult tickets in advance, in one transaction, all valid for the same day, and receive one ticket for the same day free.

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE 0870 736 2000

'What happened to Tiddles, Mummy?'

WHEN ANIMALS DIE Instead of skipping off to the tip when kitty pops its clogs, check out these sites first

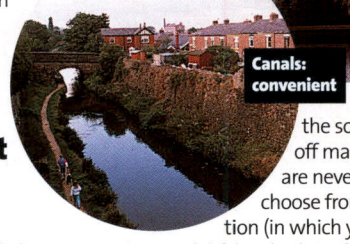
After the BBC gig, the meerkats got their own make-up

In Memory Of Pets Beyond Life's Gateway

www.in-memory-of-pets.com

★★★★

No, your eyes don't deceive you – those really are cartoon dogs with angels' wings. If the loss of your pet affected you just as deeply as the passing of our Princess Of Hearts, make this one a bookmark: if the collection of cheery and inspiring poems don't lift your spirits, you can always take part in the CandleLight Rose Ceremony on World Pet Memorial Day (11 June, animal lovers), during which you can help build the Pet Memorial Quilt or light a cyber-candle for your lost animal.



Canals: convenient

Rossendale Pet Crematorium And Memorial Gardens

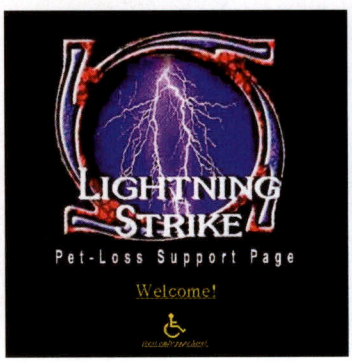
www.rosspetcrem.co.uk ★★

So you were planning to dispose of the rapidly rotting family pet with a shovel and a bin liner, were you? Shame on you. At Rossendale Pet Crematorium, you can give them the sort of send-off many humans are never afforded – choose from cremation (in which you can view Rover's lifeless body in the Chapel Of Rest beforehand) or burial in a silk-lined coffin. And you can rest assured the marble headstone will serve as a lasting memorial. Can't seem to find the prices, though...

Taxidermy Net

www.taxidermy.net ★★★★★

Alternatively, if you'd rather not maroon Tiddles in a grave in deepest Lancashire, why not leave him on your mantelpiece forever? With the miracle of taxidermy, you can! This site shows you how to get started, where to buy the acid and gloves you'll need or where to find a professional to pickle your pet. And if you get really good, enter the World Taxidermy Championships. Yes, really!



Lightning Strike Pet-Loss Support Page

www.lightning-strike.com ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

'On Monday, January 1, 1996, Tribble "Tribby-Dog" Cohn, a grumpy 18-pound longhair tabby cat, lost a short but hard-fought battle against the odds.' A tragic event but, thank God, Tribble's death hasn't been in vain; for here, lovingly dedicated to his memory, is the ultimate resource for all recently bereaved pet owners. And no grieving owner will leave uncomforted – send a message commemorating your loved one's passing, get in touch with another bereaved owner or send a card bearing the words: 'So sorry to hear about the recent loss of your furbaby.' Stop. It's too much.

Virtual Pet Cemetery

www.mycemetery,com/my/pet_menu.html ★★★

If you're a dyed-in-the-wool animal lover, the sentiments pet owners have placed here in memory of their pets will be a source of inspiration. If you're not, you'll split your sides laughing at some of the desperately over-sentimental tributes. 'I think of her bounding over the clouds of heaven looking over the edge at me.' Hours of fun, either way.

Some cases were too tough even for Rolf

best animal sites ★★★★★

where can I...

HELP WITH ANIMAL RIGHTS?

www.rspca.org.uk

The official site for the people who care for neglected animals everywhere.

www.animalaid.org.uk

The online home of the UK's largest animal rights group.

LEARN ABOUT MY PET'S BEHAVIOUR?

www.healthypet.com

Although primarily about pet health, there's also plenty of information on behaviour.

www.pethelp.net

A large site that claims to help you understand your pet, be it dog, bird or lizard.

BUY PET SUPPLIES?

www.petplanet.co.uk

Choose a pet to suit your lifestyle, then kit them out with all the toys and accessories you can buy.

Care for the little ones at rspca.org.uk

www.pet-pyjamas.co.uk

Home to some of the weirdest pet merchandise you could hope to find, including beds and clothes.

VISIT ONLINE ZOOS?

www.howletts.net

The latest Webcam technology lets you take a virtual tour round this wildlife park.

www.si.edu/natzoo

An easy-to-use and humorous site that is perfect for kids.

LEARN HOW TO CARE FOR MY PET?

www.avma.org/care4pets

Excellent advice from American vets on how to look after your pet.

www.rabbit.org/faq

A whole heap of rabbit care advice, including diet and toys.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

alt.support.grief.pet-loss

Remember – there's always someone to talk to here.

JOIN A MAILING LIST?

If you've recently lost a dog, join the Canine Support group by sending an email marked 'subscribe Dogtales' to ***listserv@listserv.uic.edu***.

GET CHATTING?

www.aplb.org

The Association For Pet Loss And Bereavement has a number of chat rooms to share your grief in.

WORDS: ROBERT JEFFERY; PICTURES: REX, SIPA PRESS

Coming Soon To A Screen Near You...

...A Virtual Shopping Experience That Really Is The Cat's Whiskers!

We all love to shop, don't we? Moving from shop to shop, seeing and touching and feeling the goods on offer, exploring new outlets and discovering new and exciting places. Nowadays, everyone is exploring on-line shopping. But the 2D world of the Web can be pretty flat and uninspiring for the shopper seeking out new and vibrant experiences.

Enter EC Land, a unique 3D environment that combines a real shopping experience with the convenience of the Internet. Its attractive virtual environment is clean, uncluttered and uncrowded, and allows you to shop from your home or desktop. Users can wander around the mall to find new stores or familiar haunts. Declan the EC Land Cat will act as your Tour Guide, offering help and advice and showing alternative ways to move around the mall.

So why not find out what EC Land has to offer right now, and enjoy a shopping experience that's certain to leave you purring.

ec LAND

A NEW DIMENSION IN ON-LINE SHOPPING

www.ecland.co.uk

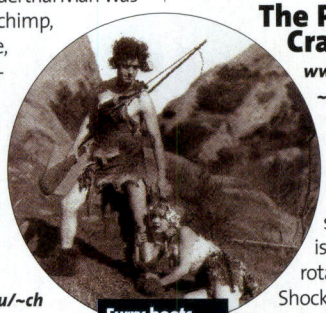
The real-life Flintstones

NEANDERTHAL MAN Evolutionary dead-end or the ancestor of modern humans? See for yourself here

Images Of Neandertals

www.talkorigins.org/faqs/homs/savage.html ★★★

Part of the talk.origins Web site, this is a fascinating series of illustrations showing how Neanderthal Man was first portrayed as a chimp, then a noble savage, and finally as someone who wouldn't look out of place at a Young Conservative rally...


Furry boots work wonders

Neanderthal Heaven

members.iinet.net.au/~chawkins/heaven.htm ★★★★

An enthusiastic look at *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*, without too many long words. The site argues that these low-browed hunter-gatherers were a sub-species of modern humans. Did you know, for example, that the oldest musical instrument ever discovered is a Neanderthal flute?

The Neanderthal Museum

www.neanderthal.de/e_thal/fs_1.htm ★★★

Neander Thal is the valley in Germany where the bones of the first Neanderthal Man were found 144 years ago. In 1996, the locals finally acknowledged their most famous former inhabitant and erected a museum. Now you can take a virtual tour, see what animals are living in its Ice Age Park and discover what German orthographic reform of 1904 did to those last four letters. 'Thal' or 'Tal'?

The Primate Crania Gallery

www.sscf.ucsb.edu/~hagen/crania/# ★★★

No Neanderthal site is complete without a spinning skull, but this page is the king of rotating crania. Use Shockwave to download high-resolution skulls of our recent ancestors and other primates, then click and drag to make the things spin like dervishes. If anyone asks what you're doing, just tell them it's educational.

Neandertals: A Cyber Perspective

sapphire.indstate.edu/~ramanank ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

Once regarded as knuckle-dragging apemen after an early palaeontologist failed to recognise arthritis in a bow-legged skeleton, the much-maligned Neanderthals are now getting nothing but good press. Here we learn that they buried their dead, worshipped gods and constructed tools; and that they also lived alongside modern humans for thousands of years, before mysteriously disappearing around 30,000BC. Find out more at this comprehensive site.

best history sites ★★★★★

where can I...

RESEARCH BRITISH HISTORY?

www.thehistorychannel.co.uk
Resource guide and forum for British history.
www.great-britain.co.uk/history/history.htm
Like a huge textbook online; concise but fun.

FIND OUT ABOUT WWII?

britaininworldwar2.future.easyspace.com
Well-written, informative nuggets on the 1939-45 conflict.
www.geocities.com/Pentagon/4143
The Battle of Britain explored.

VISIT AN ONLINE MUSEUM?

www.nhm.ac.uk
Natural History Museum site.
www.museums.co.uk
Web directory of museums.

BUY A BIT OF HISTORY?

www.collectiques.co.uk
Huge online antique directory.
www.TheAntiquesDirectory.co.uk
Where and how to buy old stuff.

RESEARCH THE MONARCHY?

www.royal.gov.uk
The official site, where Her Maj will answer your queries.

www.dcs.hull.ac.uk/public/genealogy/royal
Discover the Royal Family's history.

RESEARCH MY ANCESTORS?

www.pro.gov.uk
Public Records Office advice.

www.familysearch.com
Births, marriages and deaths in a searchable format.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

soc.history.ancient
Discuss Neanderthals in detail here.

JOIN A MAILING LIST?

For all your WWII topics, send an email containing the line 'subscribe WWII-L' to ***listserv@listserv.acsu.buffalo.edu***

GET CHATTING?

chat.genealogy.org
Family research in a chat room.

WORDS: MATTHEW BINGHAM; PICTURES: KOBAL

Villages of the damned

THE COUNTRYSIDE City-dwellers can't supress a shiver when forced out into the Great British Countryside. And with good reason...

The Beast Of Bodmin

www.parascope.com/en/cryptozoo/predatorso8.htm ★★★

Didn't a Government enquiry prove there was no such thing as ABCs – Alien Big Cats? Well, claim the believers, they would say that, wouldn't they? This page, part of a relatively level-headed site about all things unexplained, examines the 'evidence' that pumas, leopards and who knows what else are roaming around Bodmin, Exmoor and other God-forsaken parts of the British Isles.

Crop Circle Central

www.paradigmshift.com ★★★★

Despite the fact that a couple of scamps have admitted to spending most summers faking the things, sad hippies are still to be found hurtling from field to field in pursuit of crop circles. This exhaustive site will keep you up-to-date with all the theories, from ley-lines to plasma vortices, although unfortunately a link promising 'sounds emanating from a formation' was down. Still, they do look pretty.

Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival

www.bw-carnival.freeserve.co.uk ★★★

There's nothing the average villager likes more than parading up and down his cobbled streets carrying a lighted torch, which might well explain why some 130,000 of them turned up for last year's parade in Bridgwater, Somerset. The evening's traitor-burning festivities end in a massed 'squibbing' – the simultaneous explosion of one hundred fireworks attached to specially-constructed coshes.

The dance over, the mothership sucked the Morris Men up

Randwick Village Gateway

www.randwick-gateway.freeserve.co.uk/wappage.html ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

High in the Cotswolds is Randwick, a tumble of weavers' cottages and home to 1500 souls – every one a nutter. Each May, costumed locals (led by the Mop Man, who swishes a wet mop) hit the streets in the bacchanalia that is the Randwick Wap. The Mayor and Queen are carried high, escorted by Flag-boys and Cheese-bearers. The Mayor is dunked in spring water and two big Double Gloucester cheeses are rolled, pursued by frenzied farm boys. Check out the 1997 heat, which left four people in hospital, at *www.cnn.com/WORLD/9705/27/fringe/cheese.rolling*. Another day in the country, folks.

Glossop Skycam

www.hauntedvalley.com/webcam.htm ★★★★

Longdendale Valley in the High Peaks of Derbyshire is one of the UK's most active windows for 'earthlights, UFO sightings, phantom helicopters and ghost World War II bombers'. Don't mock, you might even see something yourself on the Webcam fixed on the skies over sleepy old Glossop.

Haunted Inns Of Great Britain

www.geocities.com/Area51/Hollow/8719 ★★★

Ah, the simple pleasures of a rural boozer. Horse brasses on the walls, trough-like loos round the back, the landlord's idiot cousin collecting the empties. And the obligatory ghost haunting the guest bedroom, of course. Here's a bunch of the best stories in one site, albeit with a distinct Yorkshire bias.

Model Villages

www.babbacombemodelvillage.co.uk ★★★

Stride like a colossus over thatched cottages! Darken the common with your God-like shadow! Drop a field-sized crisp packet into the duck pond! For some inexplicable reason, the Devonians built Babbacombe model village in... a village, so capital-dwellers might prefer to scoot off to Bekonscot (***www.bekonscot.org.uk***) in Buckinghamshire and be home in time for *London Tonight*.

Morris Dancing

www.morrisdancing.org ★★★★

The clunk of clog on flagstone, the tinkle of ankle bells... yes, it's another perfectly good afternoon in a beer garden ruined by Morris Men. Meet the enemy with the help of this exhaustive site covering Morrising around the world. See how they're spreading their madness to the US, China and even Finland. They must be stopped!

Whittlesey Straw Bear Festival

ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/pete_shaw_3/whittles.htm ★★

More Morris lunacy. A bunch of fen-dwellers dress some poor bugger in a suit made of straw and parade him through town, accompanied by much frenzied Morris activity. All the fun takes place outside the local pubs, '...except for Stevenage Sword, who dance in the Fish and Chip Shop as well'.

Wicker Man Location Guide

www.doughill.demon.co.uk/movies/fwickerman.html ★★★★

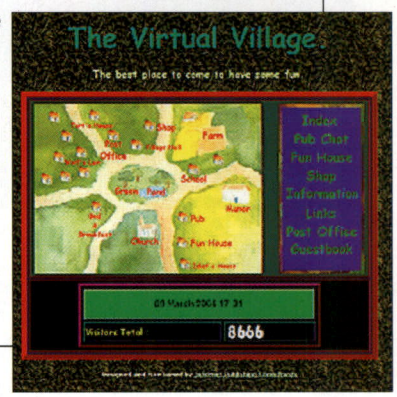
Long regarded as a documentary by city folk, *The Wicker Man*, starring Edward Woodward, is the classic 70s horror movie that put an entire generation off country life forever. In reality, 'Summerisle' was made up of half a dozen or so Scottish locations – and here they are in all their glory, complete with handy directions (for the brave) and various points of interest. A site studied in some detail by the makers of *Hamish Macbeth*, it would appear.

Wicker: flammable

THE VIRTUAL VILLAGE

'ARE YOU LOCAL..?'

Experience all the fun of country life from the safety of your desktop, thanks to the Virtual Village. Chat to other 'locals' in the village pub, visit the Manor House and enjoy the cooling breeze off the duck pond at this cleverly designed interactive site. Then, when tired, return to your comfortable world of police sirens, pizza delivery and buses that run more frequently than once a week. See ***freespace.virgin.net/village.idiot/index.html***



best weird sites ★★★★★

where can I...

FIND WEIRD NEWS?

www.joeha.com/whiteboard
A collection of those silly little stories to email your mates.
www.tabloid.net
National Enquirer-style paper, which mixes truth and fiction.
members.aol.com/JACO70/wackynewz1.index.html
Everything and anything strange, from celebrities to little green men.
www.witchvox.com
Discover the world of witchcraft and the paranormal in exhaustive detail.

FIND THE REAL X-FILES?

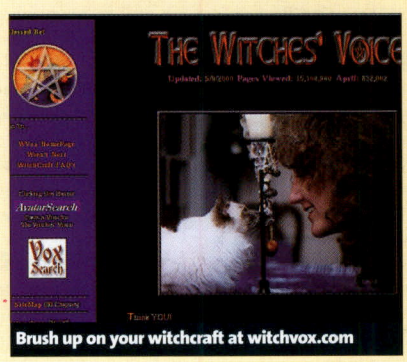
www.seti-inst.edu
The world's top ET-hunters try to track down those elusive little green men.
www.ufomag.co.uk
Home of *UFO Magazine*, with plenty of material for thought-provoking debate.
foia.fb i.gov/unusual.htm
Over 1,600 pages of previously secret material from the FBI.
www.foia.ucia.gov
More grainy, indistinct documents from the US Government's vaults.

LEARN ABOUT CULTS?

cti.itc.virginia .edu/~jkh8x/soc257/home.html
The maddest cults in the world, lovingly detailed for your perusal.
www.mayhem.net/cri me/cults.html
Find out what happens when dangerous cults go over the edge.
www.factnet.org
Regular newsletter dedicated to tracking scary sects worldwide.
www.religioustolerance.org/destruct.htm
Get the lowdown on potentially dangerous cults before you join.

SEE WACKY WEBCAMS?

www.irelandseye.com/ghost/map.html
Try and spot a ghost in Ireland.



Brush up on your witchcraft at witchvox.com

www.lochness.co.uk/livecam
Hunt for Nessie in all her glory, without having to travel all the way to Scotland.
www.jpl.nasa.gov/flower
Watch the 'corpse flower' – which smells like burning flesh – bloom.
www.flyvision.org/sitelite/Houston/GhostWatcher
Webcams from people who believe they might actually have a ghost.

FIND OUT ABOUT AREA 51?

www.ufomind.com/area51
A hefty resource on the secret base.
www.nauticom.net/users/ata/area51.html
Excellent site. Includes travel tips. Those guards can shoot to kill.
www.parascope.com/articles/1196/area1.htm
Find a photograph of the infamous black mailbox here.

FIND A CONSPIRACY THEORY?

www.disinfo.com
Conspiracies for the whole family.
www.4conspiracytheories.com
A wealth of conspiratorial links.
www.conspire.com
Sceptical tales with tongue placed firmly in cheek.
www.larouchepub.com
Very, very worrying indeed.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

soc.culture.british
Discuss the eccentricities of the British public in greater detail.

JOIN A MAILING LIST?

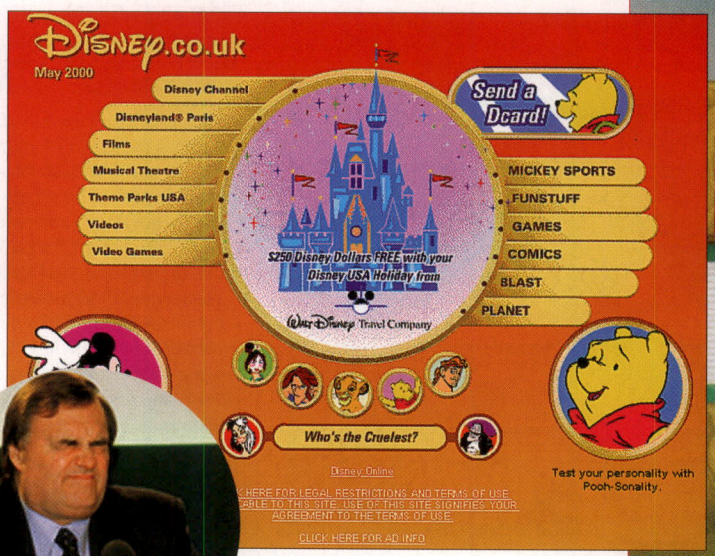
Join the generally weird via the 'Generally Weird' list from ***www.integral.org/mailman/listinfo/generallyweird***

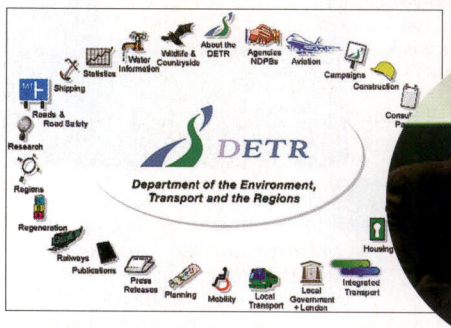
GET CHATTING?

www.scibernet.com/xfiles
Drop in for regular chats with those who know that the truth is out there somewhere.

WORDS: MATTHEW BINGHAM; PICTURES: REX, MOVIESTORE

LAW Splitting up, or getting together? Find lawyers online





GOVERNMENT '...and then I *really* really want to go to Disneyland'

The fun of surfing,

The joy of Web pages can be spoiled if you've had to spend hours finding the things.

BANKING
ONLINE BANKS
Abbey National ***www.abbeynational.co.uk***
Alliance & Leicester ***www.alliance-leicester.co.uk***
Barclays ***www.barclays.co.uk***
Co-operative Bank ***www.co-operativebank.co.uk***
Direct Line ***www.directline.com***
Egg ***www.egg.co.uk***
First Direct ***www.firstdirect.co.uk***
First-e ***www.first-e.com***
Halifax ***www.halifax-online.co.uk***
HSBC ***www.banking.hsbc.co.uk***
Lloyds TSB ***www.lloydstsb.co.uk***
Nationwide ***www.nationwide.co.uk***
Natwest ***www.natwest.co.uk***
Royal Bank Of Scotland ***www.royalbankscot.co.uk***
Smile ***www.smile.co.uk***
Virgin Direct ***www.virgin-direct.co.uk***

CLASSIFIEDS
Ad-Mart Classifieds ***www.ad-mart.co.uk***
Economist Classifieds Market Place ***www.classified.economist.com***
Eureka-net ***www.eureka-net.co.uk***
Free Classified ***www.freeclassified.co.uk***
JJ Electronic Plaza Classifieds ***www.jjplaza.com/onlinead***
Localads ***www.localads.net***
London's Classifieds ***www.classifieds-free.net***
LOOT ***www.loot.com***
netTRADER ***www.nettrader.co.uk***
PhotoAds ***www.photoads.co.uk***
Sellitnet ***www.sellitnet.com***

DOWNLOADS
Apple ***asu.info.apple.com***
Download Net ***www.download.net***
Download Warehouse ***www.downloadwarehouse.com***
Freeware ***www.freewarehome.com***
ICQ ***www.icq.com***
Memoware ***www.memoware.com***
Microsoft ***www.microsoft.com***
MP3 ***www.mp3.com***
Real Player ***www.real.com***
Shareware ***www.download.com***
Shockwave ***www.shockwave.com***
ZDNet ***www.hotfiles.com***

ENCYCLOPEDIAS
Encarta ***encarta.msn.com***
Encyclopedia Britannica ***www.britannica.com***
Encyclopedia.com ***www.encyclopedia.com***
Funkandwagnalls ***www.funkandwagnalls.com***
Hutchinson Encyclopedia ***www.bt-ern.co.uk/helicon***

FOOD AND DRINK
Cooking Index ***www.cookingindex.com***
Food Channel ***www.foodchannel.com***
KitchenLink ***www.kitchenlink.com***
Meals For You ***www.mealsforyou.com***
Restaurants.co.uk ***www.restaurants.co.uk***
Room Service ***www.roomservice.co.uk***
Toptable ***www.toptable.co.uk***
UK Local Restaurant ***www.local-restaurant.com***
Wine Spectator ***www.winespectator.com***

GAMES
GUIDES AND COMPANIES
Dreamcast ***www.dreamcast.com***
Future Games Network ***www.fgnetwork.com***
GameCenter ***www.gamecenter.com***
Game Daily ***www.gamedaily.com***
Gameplay ***www.gameplay.com***
Gamers.com ***www.gamers.com***
GameSpot ***www.gamespot.com***
GameSpyder ***www.gamespyder.com***
GameStats ***www.gamestats.com***
MacGaming ***www.maccentral.com/games***
MultiPlayer ***www.multiplayer.com***
Nintendo ***www.nintendo.com***
PlayStation ***www.playstation.com***
Sega ***www.sega-europe.com***
Total Video Games ***www.totalvideogames.com***
Yahoo! ***games.yahoo.com***
Zone ***www.zone.com***

GENEALOGY
British Ancestral Research ***www.brit-a-r.demon.co.uk***
British Heraldic Institute ***www.kwtelecom.com/heraldry***
Family Search ***www.familysearch.com***
Genealogy Research Source ***www.genealogy.bookpub.net***
Public Record Office ***www.pro.gov.uk***
Rootsweb ***www.rootsweb.com***

GOVERNMENT
BRITAIN
10 Downing Street ***www.number-10.gov.uk***
Arts Council ***www.artscouncil.org.uk***
Department for Culture, Media and Sport ***www.culture.gov.uk***
Department of Health ***www.doh.gov.uk***
Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions ***www.detr.gov.uk***
Ministry of Defence ***www.mod.uk***
Open.gov.uk ***www.open.gov.uk***
Scottish Parliament ***www.scotland.gov.uk***
Welsh Assembly ***www.wales.gov.uk***

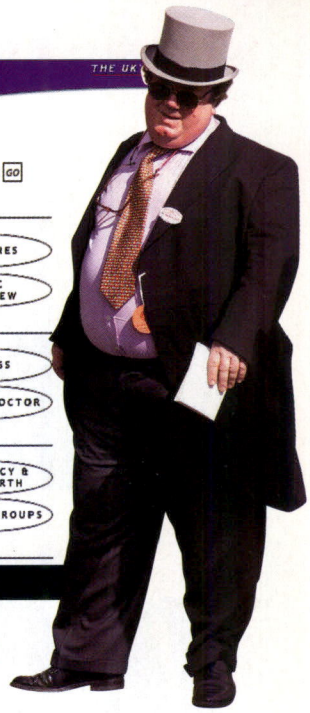
THE WORLD
Australia ***www.fed.gov.au***
China ***www.gov.cn***
European Commission ***europa.eu.int***
France ***www.premier-ministre.gouv.fr***
Germany ***www.bundesregierung.de***
Russia ***www.gov.ru***
United Nations ***www.un.org***
United States ***www.whitehouse.gov***

HEALTH
DOCTORS & DIAGNOSIS
Ask Dr Weil ***cgi.pathfinder.com/drweil***
Ask The Doc ***www.ask-the-doc.com***
British Medical Journal ***www.bmj.com***
Healthy Ideas ***www.healthyideas.com***
Intelihealth ***www.intelihealth.com***
Mayo Clinic ***www.mayo.edu***
MedRef ***www.medscout.com***
Mental Health ***www.mentalhealth.com***
NetDoctor ***www.netdoctor.co.uk***
Patient ***www.patient.co.uk***

PICTURES: KOBAL, PA, ANGELA LUBRANO/LIVE

KIDS Buzz Lightyear: not just for Christmas

HEALTH Get medical advice at netdoctor.co.uk



HEALTH WeightWatchers isn't only for women...

without the stress

That's why our monthly updated guide takes you straight to the sites you want to see

SUPPORT & INFORMATION

Alcoholics Anonymous
www.alcoholics-anonymous.org
Alzheimer's Disease Society
www.alzheimers.org.uk
Cancer Bacup
www.cancerbacup.org.uk
Centre For Online Addiction
netaddiction.com
Diabetes UK ***www.diabetic.org.uk***
Don't Smoke ***www.dontsmoke.com***
Fitness Online
www.fitnessonline.com
HIV/AIDS Information & Links
www.brad.ac.uk/staff/ijhodgson/hivlinks.htm
National Meningitis Trust
www.meningitis-trust.org.uk
WeightWatchers
uk.weightwatchers.com

HOMES

ESTATE AGENTS

Bushells ***www.bushells.com***
Chancellors ***www.chancellors.co.uk***
CityLet ***www.citylet.com***
Cluttons Daniel Smith
www.cluttons.com
Foxtons ***www.foxtons.co.uk***
Friend & Falcke
www.friendandfalcke.co.uk
Goldschmidt Howland
www.goldschmidt-howland.co.uk
Hamptons ***www.hamptons.co.uk***
John D. Wood
www.johndwood.co.uk
Knight Frank
www.knightfrank.co.uk
Strutt & Parker
www.struttandparker.co.uk
Winkworth ***www.winkworth.co.uk***
Your Move ***www.your-move.co.uk***

PROPERTY FINDERS

Accommodation Directory
www.accommodation.com
Bamboo Avenue
www.bambooavenue.com
Easier.co.uk ***www.easier.co.uk***
HomeDirectory
www.homedirectory.com
Homefile UK
www.homefileuk.co.uk
Home Free Home
www.homefreehome.co.uk
Homepages ***www.homepages.co.uk***
Home to Home
www.home-to-home.co.uk
Home Sale ***www.home-sale.co.uk***
HouseNet
www.housenet.co.uk
Internet Property Finder
www.propertyfinder.co.uk
Lets Direct ***www.letsdirect.co.uk***
Pavilions of Splendour
www.heritage.co.uk
Property Sight
www.property-sight.co.uk
UK Property Gold ***www.ukpg.co.uk***

HUMOUR

Comedy Zone
www.comedy-zone.net
Cyber Comedian
webtamers.com/comedian.html
Funplanet ***www.funplanet.co.uk***
Funny ***www.funny.co.uk***
JokeDepot ***www.jokedepot.com***
JokePost ***www.jokepost.com***
Jongleurs ***www.jongleurs.com***
The Onion ***www.theonion.com***
South Park
www.comedycentral.com
TV Go Home ***www.tvgohome.com***
Uproar ***www.uproar.com***
Whatever ***www.whatever.uk.com***

KIDS

0-8

Bedtime stories
www.home-office-mall.com/bedtime-story
Cartoon Network
www.cartoonnetwork.co.uk
Disney Channel
www.disneychannel.co.uk
FunSchool
www.funschool.com
Kidscom
www.kidscom.com/orakc/Mousers/mouse.html
Nickelodeon ***www.nickjr.com***
Sesame Street
www.sesamestreet.com/preschool

8 PLUS

AJ Kids ***www.ajkids.com***
BBC Schools Online
www.bbc.co.uk/education/schools
Club-Z ***www.club-z.com***
Disney ***www.disney.co.uk***
EduWeb ***www.eduweb.co.uk***
Family Education
www.familyeducation.com
BJ Pinchbeck Homework Helper
www.bjpinchbeck.com
Teen Advice ***www.teenadvice.net***
Thunk ***www.thunk.com***
Yahooligans
www.yahooligans.com

LAW

Desktop Lawyer
www.desktoplawyer.freeserve.net
Divorce Online
www.divorce-online.co.uk
Law Rights ***www.lawright.co.uk***
Legaldocs ***www.legaldocs.com***
UK Law Online
www.leeds.ac.uk/law/hamlyn

MAGAZINES

ONLINE MAGS

Dredly ***www.dredly.com***
Foocha ***www.foocha.com***
Garbled Communications UK
www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Show/1322
Salon ***www.salon.com***
Seven ***www.sevenmag.com***
Slate ***www.slate.com***
Suck ***www.suck.com***
Teeth ***www.teethmag.com***
Word ***www.word.com***

MOTORING

CAR MANUFACTURERS

Audi ***www.audi.co.uk***
BMW ***www.bmw.co.uk***
Citroen ***www.citroen.co.uk***
Ferrari ***www.ferrari.it***
Fiat ***www.fiat.co.uk***
Ford ***www.ford.co.uk***
Honda ***www.honda.co.uk***
Jaguar ***www.jaguarcars.com***
Lotus ***www.lotuscars.co.uk***
Mazda ***www.mazda.co.uk***
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www.mercedes-benz.co.uk
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Peugeot ***www.peugeot.co.uk***

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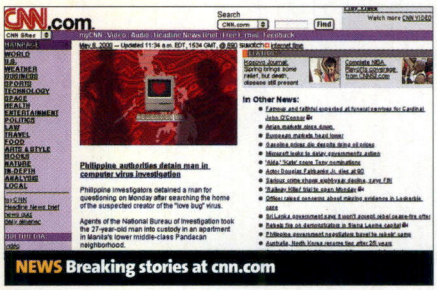
MUSIC Chemical Brothers: a popular beat combo



SHOPPING The 'Great Wall of Cans' during construction

Porsche ***www.porsche.co.uk***
Rover ***www.rover.co.uk***
Toyota ***www.toyota.co.uk***
Vauxhall ***www.vauxhall.co.uk***
Volkswagen ***www.volkswagen.co.uk***
Volvo ***www.volvocars.volvo.co.uk***

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Imperial War Museum
www.iwm.org.uk
National Gallery
www.nationalgallery.org.uk
Natural History Museum
www.nhm.ac.uk
Tate Gallery ***www.tate.org.uk***

MUSIC

BRITISH MP3 PORTALS

BeSonic ***www.besonic.com***
Brand New Music
www.brandnewmusic.com
Crunch ***www.crunch.co.uk***
Get Out There
www.getoutthere.bt.com
Getsigned.com ***www.get-signed.com***
Music Unsigned
www.musicunsigned.com
Peoplesound ***www.peoplesound.com***
Popwire ***www.popwire.com***
Vitaminic ***www.vitaminic.co.uk***

TOP ARTISTS

The Beatles ***members.tripod.com/~taz4158/pepper.html***
Blur ***www.blur.co.uk***
David Bowie ***www.davidbowie.com***
Boyzone ***www.boyzone.co.uk***
Catatonia ***www.catatonia.com***
Chemical Brothers
musicfanclubs.org/chemical
Fatboy Slim
www.normancook.cjb.net
Macy Gray ***www.macygray.com***
Jamiroquai ***www.jamiroquai.co.uk***
Manic Street Preachers
www.manics.co.uk
Oasis ***www.oasisinet.com***
Prince ***www.love4oneanother.com***
Radiohead ***www.radiohead.co.uk***
REM ***www.remhq.com***
Spice Girls
superspice.hypermart.net
Stereophonics
www.stereophonics.co.uk
Supergrass ***www.supergrass.com***
Travis ***www.travisonline.com***
Robbie Williams
www.robbiewilliams.co.uk

NEWS

NEWSPAPERS

Electronic Telegraph
www.telegraph.co.uk
Guardian Unlimited
www.guardianunlimited.co.uk
Independent
www.independent.co.uk
MegaStar ***www.megastar.co.uk***
The Mirror ***www.mirror.co.uk***
The Sun ***www.the-sun.com***
The Times ***www.the-times.co.uk***

NEWS SERVICES

BBC ***news.bbc.co.uk***
CNN ***www.cnn.com***
ITN ***www.itn.co.uk***
NewsNow ***www.newsnow.co.uk***
News Unlimited
www.newsunlimited.co.uk
PA News ***www.pa.press.net***
Reuters ***www.reuters.com/news***

PEOPLE FINDERS

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Bigfoot ***bigfoot.com***
EmailFinder
www.emailfinder.com
People Site ***www.peoplesite.com***
WhoWhere ***www.whowhere.com***
Yahoo ***people.yahoo.com***

PHONE NUMBERS

BT Directory Enquiries
www.bt.co.uk/phonenetuk
Thomson Directories
www.thomweb.co.uk
Yellow Pages ***www.yell.co.uk***

RADIO

STATION DIRECTORIES

Broadcast ***www.broadcast.com/radio***
On The Air ***www.ontheair.com***
Radio Directory
www.radiodirectory.com
Radio Now ***www.radionow.co.uk***
Radio On The Internet
www.radio-on-the-internet.com
RealGuide ***realguide.real.com***

SCIENCE

NEWS AND UPDATES

BBC Science ***news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/sci/tech/default.htm***
Eureka Alert ***www.eurekalert.org***
NASA ***science.nasa.gov***
New Scientist ***www.newscientist.com***
WhyFiles ***whyfiles.news.wisc.edu***

SEARCH ENGINES

Altavista ***www.altavista.digital.com***
Ask Jeeves ***www.askjeeves.com***
Dogpile ***www.dogpile.com***
Electric Library ***www.elibrary.com***
FAST ***alltheweb.com***
Google ***www.google.com***
HotBot ***www.hotbot.com***
Lycos ***www.lycos.com***
MetaCrawler ***www.metacrawler.com***
Mirago ***www.mirago.co.uk***
Northern Light ***www.nlsearch.com***
Pandia Search Central
www.pandia.com

SHOPPING

ONLINE AUCTIONS

Auction Hunter
www.auctionhunter.co.uk
Auction Universe
www.auctionuniverse.co.uk
Bid4sport ***www.bid4sport.co.uk***
eBay ***www.ebay.co.uk***
eBid ***www.ebid.co.uk***
eSwap ***www.eswap.co.uk***
Eurobid ***www.eurobid.com***
Last Minute ***www.lastminute.com***
QXL ***www.qxl.com***
What Am I Bid?
www.whatamibid.com

SHOPPING DIRECTORIES

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www.buckinghamgate.co.uk
Centreshop ***www.centreshop.com***
eDirectory ***www.edirectory.co.uk***
Enterprise City
www.enterprisecity.co.uk
IMRG ***shops.imrg.org***
Internet Shopping
www.internetshopping.com
ShopGuide ***www.shopguide.co.uk***
Shoppers Universe
shoppersuniverse.com
Shopping UK
www.internetics.co.uk/shop
ShopSmart ***www.shopsmart.com***
Shops On The Net ***www.sotn.com***
Shop Spy ***www.shopspy.co.uk***
ShopYell ***www.shopyell.co.uk***
Taxi ***www.mytaxi.co.uk***
TopUkWebsites
www.topukwebsites.com
Virtual Mall ***www.thevirtualmall.co.uk***
UK Max ***www.ukmax.co.uk/shopping***
UK Shopping Zone
ukshoppingzone.co.uk

SPORT

FA PREMIERSHIP CLUBS

Arsenal ***www.arsenal.co.uk***
Aston Villa ***www.astonvilla-fc.co.uk***
Bradford City
www.bradfordcityfc.co.uk
Chelsea ***www.chelseafc.co.uk***
Coventry City ***www.ccfc.co.uk***
Derby County ***www.dcfc.co.uk***
Everton ***www.evertonfc.com***
Leeds United ***www.lufc.co.uk***
Leicester City ***www.lcfc.co.uk***
Liverpool ***www.liverpoolfc.net***
Manchester United
www.manutd.com
Middlesbrough ***www.mfc.co.uk***
Newcastle United ***www.nufc.co.uk***
Sheffield Wednesday ***www.swfc.co.uk***
Southampton
www.saintsfc.co.uk/index.htm
Sunderland
www.sunderland-afc.com
Tottenham Hotspur
www.spurs.co.uk
Watford ***www.watfordfc.com***

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TRAVEL The rainy season caught out another tour party

West Ham Utd ***www.whufc.co.uk***
Wimbledon
www.wimbledon-fc.co.uk

SPORT A-Z

Athletics ***www.nuff-respect.co.uk***
Basketball ***www.nba.com***
Boxing ***www.boxingonline.com***
Cricket ***www.cricinfo.com***
Formula One ***www.itv-f1.com***
Fishing ***www.anglersnet.co.uk***
Football ***www.football365.com***
Golf ***www.golfweb.com***
Hockey ***www.fieldhockey.com***
Martial Arts
www.martial-arts-network.com
Motorsport ***www.autosport.com***
Racing ***www.racingpost.co.uk***
Rugby League ***www.rleague.com***
Rugby Union ***www.scrum.com***
Skiing ***www.complete-skier.com***
Snooker ***www.snookernet.com***
Tennis ***www.itftennis.com***

STYLE AND FASHION

MAIN SITES

BeautyLink ***www.beautylink.com***
Boo.com ***www.boo.com***
Cosmopolitan ***www.cosmomag.com***
Elle ***www.ellemag.com***
Fashion And Beauty Internet Association ***www.fbia.com***
Fashionfile ***www.fashionfile.co.uk***
Fashion Mall ***www.fashionmall.com***
FashionNet ***www.fashion.net***
Models.com ***www.models.com***
Salonweb ***www.salonweb.com***
Style Experts ***www.stylexperts.com***
Vogue ***www.vogue.com***

TELEVISION

TOP SHOWS

Big Breakfast
bigbreakfast.channel4.com
Brookside ***www.brookie.com***
Coronation Street
www.coronationstreet.co.uk
EastEnders
www.bbc.co.uk/eastenders
Friends ***friends.warnerbros.com***
Hollyoaks ***www.hollyoaks.com***
Neighbours ***www.neighbours.com***
Jerry Springer ***www.universalstudios.com/tv/jerryspringer***
Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?
www.phone-a-friend.com
X-Files ***www.thex-files.com***

TV COMPANIES

BBC ***www.bbc.co.uk***
Channel Four ***www.channel4.co.uk***
Channel Five ***www.channel5.co.uk***
ITV ***www.itv.co.uk***
ONdigital ***www.ondigital.co.uk***
Sky ***www.sky.co.uk***

TRAVEL

AIRLINES

Air Canada ***www.aircanada.ca***
Air France ***www.airfrance.com***
American Airlines ***www.aa.com***
Britannia
www.britanniaairways.com
BA ***www.british-airways.com***
BM ***www.iflybritishmidland.com***
Buzz ***www.buzzaway.com***
Continental ***www.flycontinental.com***
Easy Jet ***www.easyjet.com***
Go ***www.go-fly.com***
Iberia ***www.iberia.com***
KLM ***www.klmuk.com***
Lufthansa ***www.lufthansa.com***
Qantas ***www.qantas.com.au***
United Airlines ***www.ual.com***
Virgin Air ***www.virgin-atlantic.com***

DESTINATION GUIDES

Australia ***australia-online.com***
Caribbean
www.caribbean-travel.com
France ***www.franceway.com***
Germany ***www.germany-tourism.de***
Greece ***www.areianet.gr/infoxenios***
India ***www.indiagov.org***
Ireland ***www.irelandseye.com***
Italy ***www.travel.it***
Japan ***www.jnto.go.jp***
Lonely Planet ***www.lonelyplanet.com***
Portugal ***www.portugal-web.com***
Ski Club Of Great Britain
www.skiclub.co.uk
Spain ***www.spaintour.com***
UK ***www.visitbritain.com***
US ***www.go-unitedstates.com***

FERRIES

Ferry Savers ***www.ferrysavers.co.uk***
P&O ***www.poef.com/poef/index.htm***
Travel Britain ***www.travelbritain.com/UKPassengerFerries.html***
Travel.World
www.travel.world.co.uk/ferries.htm

RAIL TRAVEL

Euro Railways
www.eurorailways.com
Great Eastern Railway
www.ger.co.uk
Great Western Trains
www.great-western-trains.co.uk
Railtrack ***www.railtrack.co.uk***
Scotrail ***www.scotrail.co.uk***
Trainline ***www.thetrainline.com***
UK Public Transport Information
www.pti.org.uk
Virgin Trains ***www.virgintrains.co.uk***

TRAVEL AGENTS

A2B ***www.a2btravel.com***
Airtickets ***www.airtickets.co.uk***
Bargain Holidays
www.bargainholidays.org
Biztravel ***www.biztravel.com***
Campus Travel
www.usitcampus.co.uk
Cheap Flights
www.cheapflights.co.uk
Deckchair
www.deckchair.com
ebookers ***www.ebookers.com***
Expedia ***www.expedia.co.uk***
Holiday Wizard
www.holidaywizard.co.uk
Internet Travel Services
www.itsnet.co.uk
Last Minute
www.lastminute.com
STA Travel
www.statravel.co.uk
Thomas Cook
www.thomascook.co.uk
Thomson
www.thomson-holidays.com
Trailfinders ***www.trailfinder.com***
Travelocity ***www.travelocity.com***

WEBCAMS

DIRECTORIES

Allcam ***www.allcam.com***
Camcity ***www.camcity.com***
Digital Camera Network
www.dcn.com
Earthcam ***www.earthcam.com***
Webcam Central
www.camcentral.com
WebCam World
www.webcamworld.com
Webviews ***www.webviews.co.uk***

FAVOURITES

AfriCam ***www.africam.com***
The Dolls' House
www.bravo.co.uk/dolls
Howletts Zoo ***www.howletts.net***
Interactive Model Railroad
rr-vs.informatik.uni-ulm.de
Jennicam ***www.jennicam.org***
Radio 1
www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/inside_r1
Ultimate Taxi
www.ultimatetaxi.com
WalfordCam ***www.bbc.co.uk/eastenders/walfordcam***

WEB CENSORS

Cybersnoop ***www.pearlsw.com***
Cyber Patrol ***www.cyberpatrol.com***
Net Nanny ***www.netnanny.com***
Xcheck ***www.xcheck.net***

WEB DIRECTORIES

About.com ***www.about.com***
4anything ***www.4anything.com***
AOL Netfind ***www.aol.com/netfind***
Excite ***www.excite.com***
Infoseek ***infoseek.go.com***
Liszt (mailing lists) ***www.liszt.com***
LookSmart ***www.looksmart.com***
Open Directory ***www.dmoz.org***
UK Plus ***www.ukplus.co.uk***
WebCrawler
www.webcrawler.com
Yahoo! ***www.yahoo.com***
Yell ***www.yell.co.uk***

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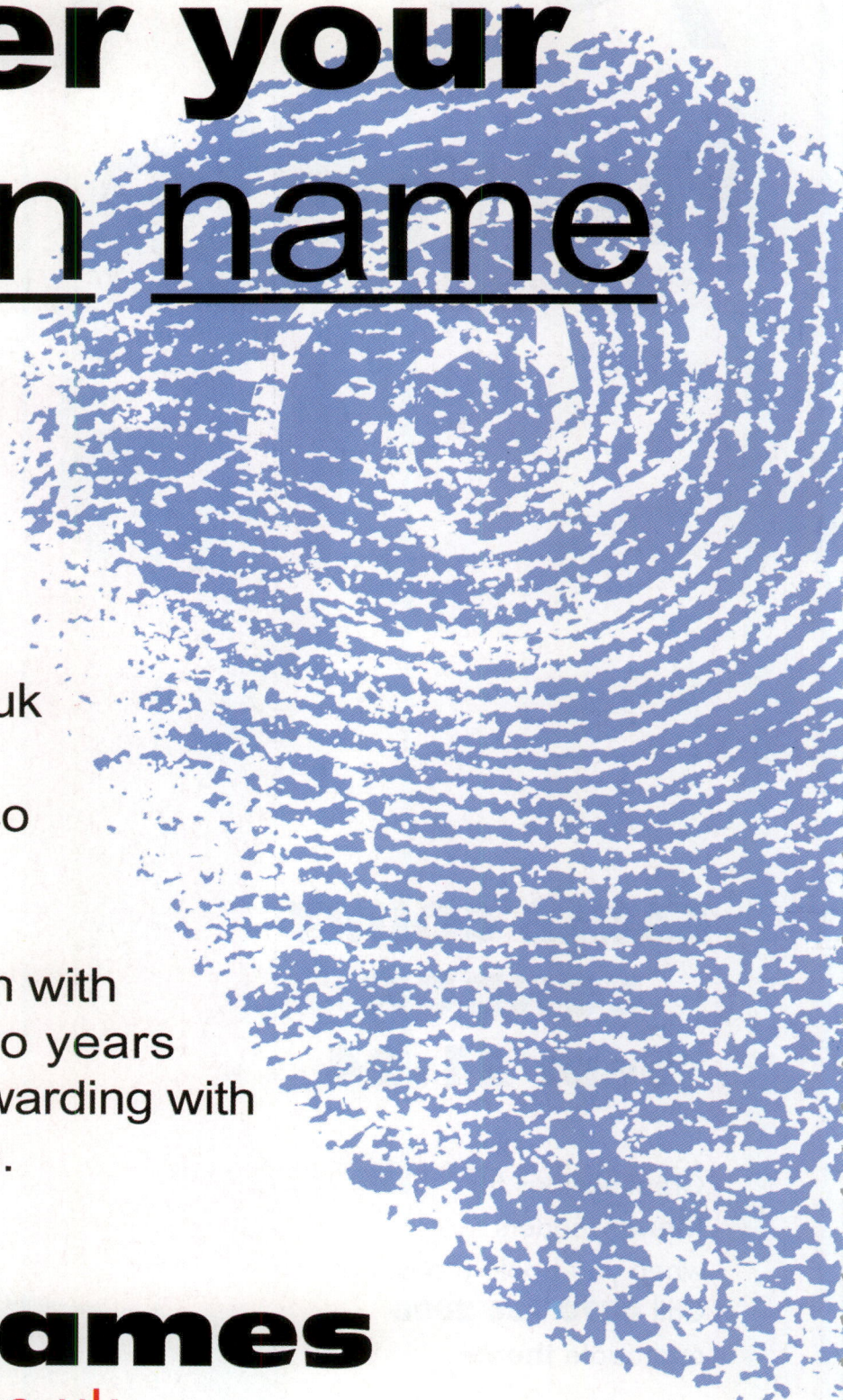

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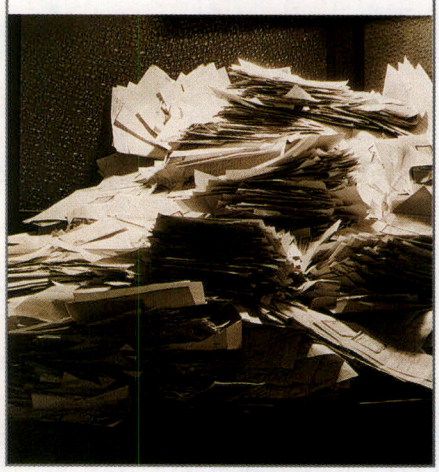
EMAIL

The desktop letterbox

Email is a phenomenon. Right now, millions of people are chatting away via short, snappy letters typed on computers and instantly posted via modems. It's got the world talking again, and it's virtually free.

Email allows you to send messages round the corner or round the world in seconds, and get the reply just as fast. And with Freeserve, you don't have to pay a penny.

When you sign up with Freeserve, we'll give you an unlimited number of email addresses for free. You don't pay to send messages, and you don't pay to receive; all you pay is the cost of the local call to connect to the Internet – whether you're writing to Bolton or Buenos Aires.



OUR SITE

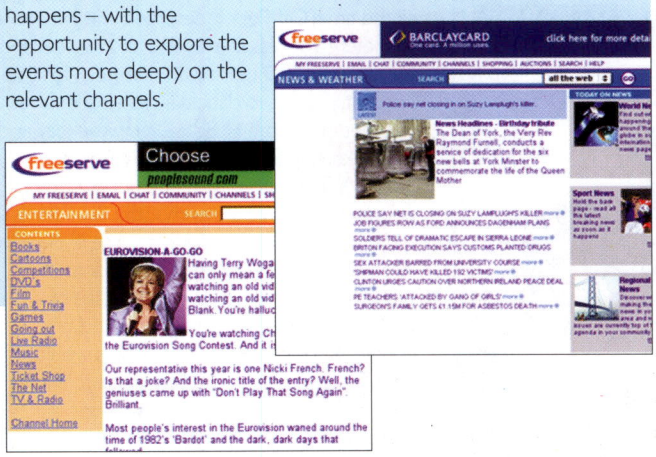
The Web's finest

At Freeserve we don't just give you free Web space, unlimited free email addresses and free access to the Internet (except for the dial-up cost). We're also dedicated to bringing you the very best content on the Internet, collecting it all under one roof: on the Freeserve Today page at *www.freeserve.com*.

Make yourself at home on Freeserve: treat Today as your home on the Web, make it your homepage and check in every day. That way you'll get a great digest of all the latest news, weather and sport as it happens – with the opportunity to explore the events more deeply on the relevant channels.

However, it's not just hard news and happenings on Freeserve. There's the Life channel, packed with interesting features. You can track the stars of stage and screen with the Entertainment channel, plan a break with the Travel channel, have a natter with our Chat channel or search for a job on the Careers channel. If you have a small business you shouldn't miss the Business channel. Try the women's channel at iCircle, or the Sport channel, Money, Learning, Shopping...

Whatever you want, it'll be on *www.freeserve.com*.



'We're dedicated to bringing you the very best of the Internet on the Freeserve Today page'

YOUR SITE

Build your own home

The Internet has been claimed as the ultimate in free speech – anyone can get on there and have their say. And thanks to Freeserve, that includes you. How? With the space on the Web we'll give you for nothing, and the sitebuilding software we'll give you for an equally nonexistent price.

You might think it's rocket science building a website, but there are about 100 million sites out there so it can't be that hard. And the free programmes included on the Freeserve sign-up CD makes it easy by doing all the technical stuff for you. All you need to do is think what to use your 15Mb of Web space for!

Comic pages
Your website doesn't have to be earnest and serious. In this issue we'll look at three light-hearted websites on Freeserve.
page xii

SPEECHMAIL

Email via the phone brings freedom from the modem

It's a busy world. You might have your own business, or just move around a lot – with a hectic social life or a long journey to work. So you might find yourself expecting a crucial email – whether it's about a business deal, a date or a night out – while you're miles from your PC. So what do you do? Call Freeserve Speechmail.

The clever idea behind Speechmail is that you can access your email messages over the phone without the need for a computer. And as usual, there's absolutely no charge for Freeserve customers.

Simply sign up to the service at the Web address below, and you'll be given a phone number which you can use to access your mail. You can ring it from any phone, including your mobile. It means you don't need your modem to check your mail!

For more details on Speechmail, try the site below. You might not switch your modem on again!
www.freeserve.com/speechmail

CHANNEL GUIDE

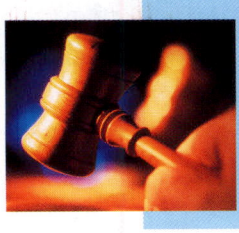
Some of the great channels available on Freeserve

Today

Freeserve has always strived to provide the best content on the Web, with new information and entertainment every month. The end result of this is the new front page at *www.freeserve.com*, which has recently been redesigned to make navigation around the site much easier. The new homepage has been styled as the Today channel, with an exciting mix of topical content and features to enjoy. Go there today!

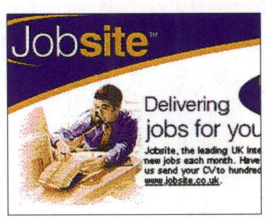
Auctions

The thrill of bidding for items at bargain prices is no longer confined to auction rooms. By going to FSauctions at *www.fsauctions.co.uk*, you can peruse the wide variety of merchandise on offer and place your bid. It's up to you to decide how high to go!



Business

Do you run a small business, online or off? If so, you could benefit from the Freeserve Business channel. From conference calls to calling cards, you'll find that the Business channel is your one-stop shop for all your needs.



Careers

You're wired, now get hired – not fired. The Careers channel lets you search databases of 70,000 jobs nationwide; you can even apply online, or submit your CV and wait for employers in your area to come to you!

Image Bank

Calls for less

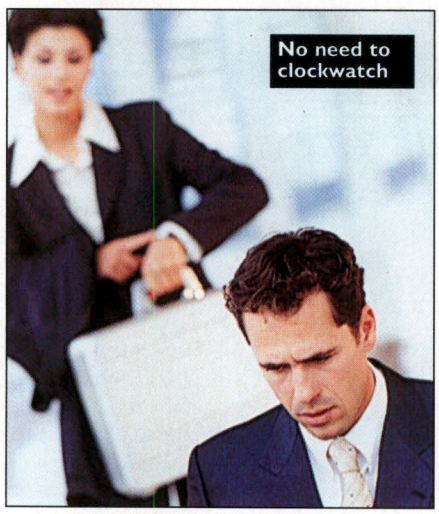
powered by freeserve
www.freeserve.com

As part of the ongoing value drive from the UK's leading Internet service, Freeserve offers Internet calls for free

At Freeserve, we're dedicated to saving you money. That shows with all the freebies you get when you sign up with us – unlimited free email addresses, no monthly subscription charge for Web access, 15 megabytes of free space on the Internet to build your own website and free software to build it with (on the free sign-up CD). That's why we quickly grew to nearly 2 million users – by giving the general public what they want with the minimum of fuss.

We're also dedicated to bringing you the best content on the Internet, which is why we have so many channels packed with great stuff. However, we realise that to browse through all this content takes time, and that searching under pressure of time – as you are when paying call costs per minute to your phone company for connecting to the Internet – is nowhere near as pleasurable as browsing without worrying about the time it takes.

As a result, we've struck a deal to bring you unmetered access at a reasonable rate. It's part of Freeserve Time, a new three-option system for paying for your browsing. The first option is the existing pay-as-you-go agreement, No Ties Freeserve Time. Then there's an option to make £10 worth of calls on the Freeserve telephone network in return for completely unlimited, unmetered access to the Internet; that's Unlimited Freeserve Time.



Now there's a middle ground, Off-Peak Freeserve Time, which opened for business on 1 June. Rather than unmetered Internet access all the time, Off-Peak Freeserve Time gives you unmetered access at evenings and at weekends for around £6.99 per month. In return for that amount, you get to dabble all you like on the internet from 6pm to 8am every weekday and all weekend (midnight Friday to midnight Sunday). That's more than 400 hours of unmetered browsing per month.

This package makes perfect sense if you have a regular daytime job which means you wouldn't be around to take advantage of 24-hour unmetered calls anyway. And, of course, schoolchildren and students would benefit enormously from being able to surf at their leisure while doing homework or coursework – and you never know, that freedom to browse for the best possible information might even bump up their grades!

As a guide, Freeserve suggest that Off-Peak Freeserve Time would be a good package for you if you spend more than 11 hours per month using the Internet at off-peak times. That's around half an hour every weeknight.

For more on Off-Peak Freeserve Time, check out ***www.freeserve.com/time/offpeak.htm***.

CHANNEL GUIDE

Some of the great channels available on Freeserve

Chat

Freeserve's ever-popular chat service is a great hit. You can use our new 3D chat rooms to get around and explore virtual reality worlds, or even set up your own chatgroups.

Entertainment

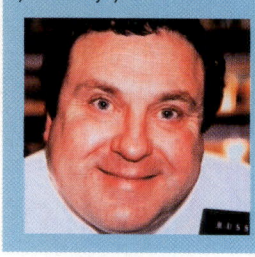
The latest releases in the worlds of film and music are all here on the Freeserve Entertainment channel. From Greig to Gomez and Antonioni to *Antz*, it's all in Entertainment.

Learning

From pre-school right through to A-level, Freeserve Education is there to help you through your studies with an interactive learning environment to encourage learning skills.

Life

New from Freeserve, the Life channel is an exclusive features magazine which brings you the latest lowdown on everything that matters, online and off. Whatever you're into, you'll enjoy Life.



Money

Freeserve will help you keep your finances healthy with expert advice. Whether you want savings tips or advice on choosing an ISA, you can keep your pocket full with Freeserve.

Freeserve: on a TV set and cinema near you

New large-scale Freeserve advertising campaign enforces the feeling of freedom

In recent months we've told you all about Freeserve's crisp new look, from the major redesign of the website to the clean and swish new logo. Now those elements are in place, the UK's leading Internet service has taken to the small screen in a series of television adverts designed to publicise the work of the nation's No.1 for the Internet.

The theme running through each advertisement is freedom, be it on the Internet or in life. Sometimes humorous, sometimes touching, the ads – which run to 20, 30 and 60 seconds long – have become a talking point around the country.

Model Aimee

The first advertisement features lush backing music to create a romantic setting, but this is no ordinary affair: the lovers are two snails, and their amorous antics have provoked many a wry smile in lounges across the land.

The second advert features Aimee Mullins, a model and athlete. As the camera pulls back it slowly becomes clear that she has lost both her legs, yet retains a leading position in the industry and remains free to express herself in life.

The third ad returns to the light-hearted. A duck swims gently across a pond and back again, followed by a gaggle of ducklings and accompanied by light orchestral music. However, on the third crossing, a free-spirited member of the entourage decides to wander off and do its own thing – to the strains of some decidedly funkier music.

All three advertisements emphasise the importance of freedom. All three enforce the message with the closing line 'Be free',

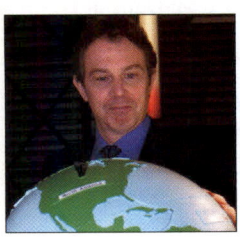
Duck: wants to wander

at which point the new Freeserve logo is revealed.

Freeserve Marketing Director Neil Sansom describes the inspiration behind the campaign: 'The advertisements convey passion and inspiration,' he explains. 'To achieve this we used one of Britain's top advertising directors, Tony Kaye, and the remarkable model Aimee Mullins, in one of the executions in what is a celebration of Aimee's achievements.'

The new Freeserve adverts are being screened in all ITV regions in addition to being on Channel 4, Channel 5 and certain satellite channels. The adverts will also feature in cinemas nationwide and the campaign is backed up by press and poster advertising.

'The object of these adverts is not just to create brand awareness, but to represent the new face of Freeserve,' declares Neil. 'We want to build a relationship with our 1.9 million members and communicate our brand values.'



News

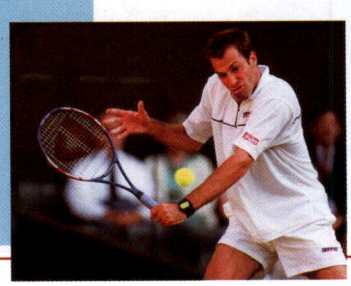
Get tomorrow's papers today with this superb news service. You'll get all the latest UK and foreign stories, together with business news and a complete rundown of headlines as they happen.

Shopping

The Freeserve Shopping channel can provide flowers or food, a car or a computer. Look out for great deals and savings from SHOP@freeserve and now the new Marketplace retailers.

Sport

Whatever your sport, you'll find it on Freeserve. Football, tennis, cricket, rugby, Formula 1 or golf; you can get the results and follow your heroes on the Sport channel. See page x for details.

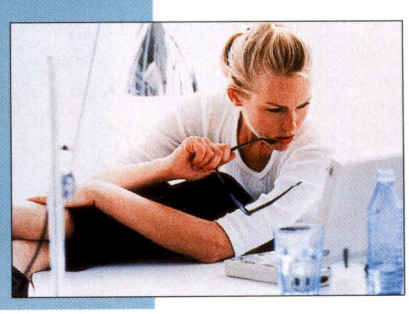


Travel

Click on the Freeserve Travel channel for instant access to a database of 70,000 flights and holidays worldwide. There are always sensational last-minute deals on offer.

Women

Women on the Web need look no further than the Freeserve iCircle channel for the latest features, information and advice.



Retna; Empics; PA; Image Bank

Get your fax right – via your email

New Freeserve initiative Inbox allows you to receive faxes and voicemail messages via email

How would you like to get faxes and voicemail messages via your email address? Freeserve has done it again with a wonderful new service called Inbox which does just that. And, of course, it's free.

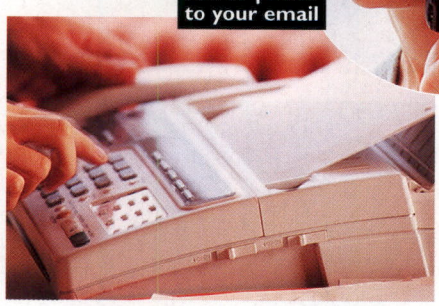
The benefits of email have made working from home easier than ever, and with the new Inbox service it's an office in an email programme. Just think, you could get maps or other images faxed to your email address. And in addition, you could get voicemail messages from family, friends and business contacts.

Inbox works with both Freeserve mail and Web-based FSmail accounts too. Voice messages arrive as attachments in RealAudio format, while fax messages arrive in .TIF picture format.

The Inbox service is completely free, with no hidden charges or monthly fees – you can think of it as an extra functionality service on your original email.

When you sign up for Inbox, you're given a personal UK phone number (an 0870 number, which is national call-rate for those contacting you). Give this out to all your friends, family, customers and contacts, and they can fax or voicemail you; messages are routed into your email account.

It's a great way to save money and effort if you do work from home. It'll save you money on toner and paper, and you don't need to get an extra phone line to take calls and faxes while you're connected to the Net – they'll pop up on your email account.



You can receive a lot of information on Inbox, too: 5Mb is around 130 fax pages on average, and as you access the messages you can save them down elsewhere onto your computer, freeing up more room in your Inbox.

And don't forget that you can access these messages from any machine in the world. The Web-based FSmail accounts are available from anywhere, and now messages left on your freeserve.co.uk, fsnet.co.uk or fsbusiness.co.uk accounts can be accessed from FSmail. Register for Inbox in June at ***www.freeserve.com/communications***.

powered by freeserve
www.freeserve.com

'With 1.9 million members, Freeserve is the UK's No.1 for the Internet'

John Pluthero, Chief Executive

NEW ON FREESERVE

Check out some of our great new features

Youth gets a chance with Freeserve

In an age where sport is often big business, it's all too easy to forget that youngsters represent the future. But at Freeserve we've thrown our weight behind a competition designed to celebrate and promote youth sport.

The Millennium Youth Games is the world's largest sports event for young people. Over a three-month programme leading up to the grand final in August this year, more than a quarter of a million youngsters will have taken part in the Games.

Although the Games will naturally bring the stars of tomorrow to prominence, the idea is to get young people taking part in sport, being part of a team and enjoying the challenge of competition. And what's wrong with that? ***www.freeserve.com/sport***

Speed demons bowled over

June sees the international cricket season really get going, with England facing their old adversaries from the West Indies in a Test match series. The Windies aren't the force they once were in the heyday of Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards, and record-breaking star batsman Brian Lara isn't guaranteed to be involved due to family commitments, but the blistering pace of the fast bowlers remains undiminished – and you'll be able to see just how fast they are as Freeserve brings the latest technology to bat.

The Freeserve Speedster measures the pace of the bowler's delivery with the help of small sensors positioned around the wicket. The speeds are instantly recorded and relayed to large screens at the side of the pitch for players and fans to see.

To celebrate the new technology, we're giving you the chance to win a great prize: a fantastic hospitality box during the Ashes series next summer. To win the box, all you have to do is correctly predict the fastest speed bowled during the 2000 International cricket season – and the bowler. The season runs until 4 September, but you must submit your entry by midnight on 29 June. Check ***www.freeserve.com/sport*** for more details.

Web-wise women join the expanding iCircle

The finest female-oriented content on the Internet continues to expand and improve

At iCircle we believe in catering for as much of the community as possible. Our specialised women's channel is a fine example of this. As the Internet matures, more and more women are getting online and they're finding that the best content on the Web is on iCircle.

We're always looking for ways to improve iCircle. As a result, the channel was recently relaunched with a new look and feel. But it wasn't just change for change's sake: the navigation was made much easier, and we took the opportunity to upgrade the content too. The result is a much better channel dedicated to the needs of women – and the success of the redesign has already reaped dividends, with traffic to the site increased by more than 30 percent.

iCircle is moving into the 21st Century. The indications are that more and more women are logging on to the Internet – some studies estimate that within a year or two at least 50 percent of the online population will be female – and when looking around for content, the best will always be found on iCircle.

iCircle is constantly improving and expanding content. Last month we told you about the new horoscopes section using psychological astrology; this month sees the launch of a great new careers service to help you get the job – and therefore the salary – you deserve to earn.

iCircle
www.iCircle.com

And the content won't stop there. June is a traditional month for wedding festivities, and iCircle will soon be launching a wedding service to help get you through what can be a very complicated process – organising a ceremony, a dress, bridesmaids' dresses, invites, a reception, entertainment, gift list, food, honeymoon, accommodation, transport… let iCircle help you to organise the most special day of your life!

For these new features, all the existing content – money advice, travel, mother and baby information, shopping and Anna Raeburn's relationship advice – check out *www.icircle.com*.

powered by freeserve
www.freeserve.com

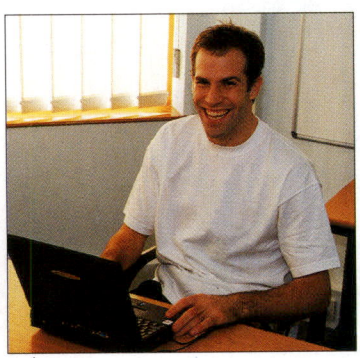
Chinwag with the stars on Freeserve

The stars are coming out on Freeserve this summer as we secure exclusive Webchats with several top-name celebrities.

There's a suitably summery sporty feel to some of the guests. Tennis ace Greg Rusedski is to continue his relationship with Freeserve by taking part in Webchats during the Wimbledon championships this month, and he might just drag one or two famous friends along too. Those who prefer cricket should prepare for charismatic Yorkshireman Darren Gough, who's also having his say on Freeserve this summer.

But it's not all sport. We've also been chatting with top pop stars Lolly, Madasun and SClub7 recently – as you'll see on page ix. It seems we're friends with the stars!

www.freeserve.com/chat

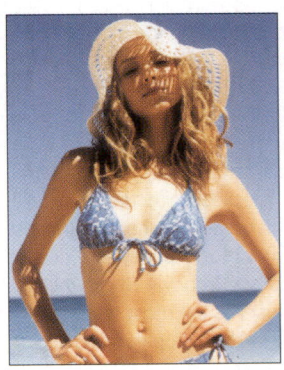


Win a holiday in paradise

How do you fancy being given two and a half grand to spend on a holiday doing exactly as you please on a tropical beach? It's up for grabs on Freeserve this month.

We've got together with renowned high-street fashion store River Island to bring you a holiday competition with a difference. Whereas many prizes are decided for you, the winner of this contest will be given £2,500 to design a bespoke holiday in the Indian Ocean paradise resort of Goa.

Maybe you'd want the best accommodation available, or perhaps you'd stay somewhere less expensive in order to make the holiday last longer! The competition details will be announced in mid-June, so keep your eyes on *www.freeserve.com/competitions*.



RIVER ISLAND

Image Bank

Site of a thousand Stars

powered by freeserve www.freeserve.com

Recent weeks have seen Freeserve link up with a host of celebrities – and there are more to come on Entertainment

True Brit Spears gets Freeserve help to No. 1

The Freeserve entertainment channel has gone celebrity bonkers this month, with loads of link-ups with top turns from the worlds of music, TV and radio. Read on to see how we've been dealing with the best in the business.

It's always difficult for those who come to fame as a teenage sensation. The tendency is for them to be labelled as simplistic and, pigeon-holed and sidelined, their fame shrinks as the audience grows up. However, that's not an accusation that can be levelled at Britney Spears.

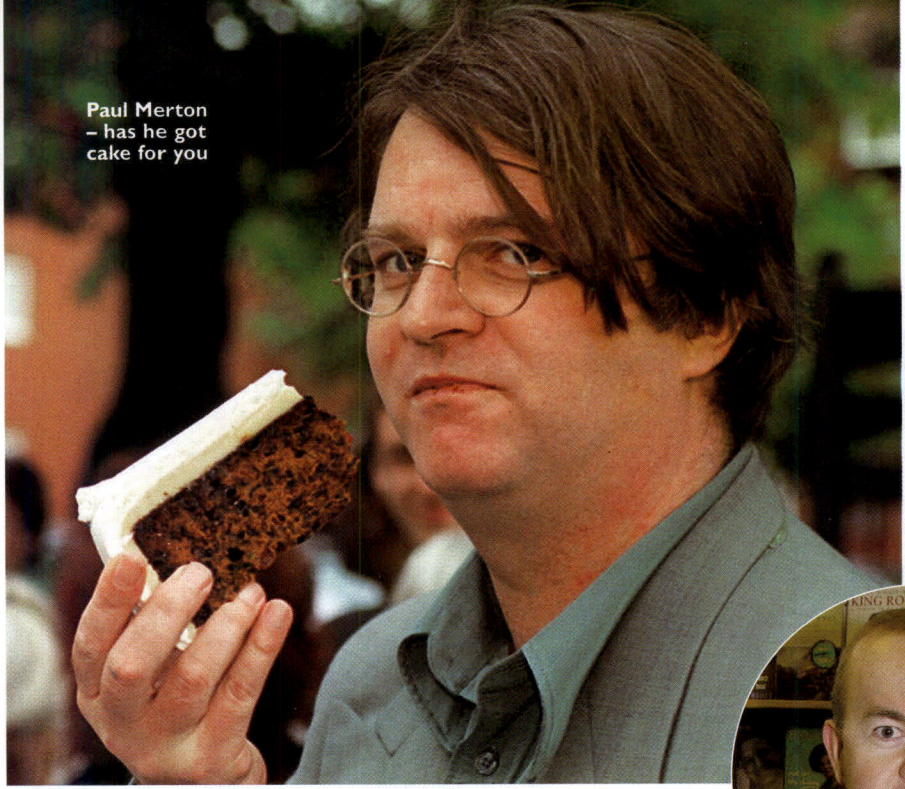
She's back and hotter than ever, and if you want proof, how's about this for a statistic: Britney has become the No. 1 selling female artist in recorded music history.

It's therefore fitting that Britney should link up with Freeserve, Britain's No. 1 for the Internet. Her new single 'Oops!... I Did It Again' has played a starring role on the Freeserve Entertainment channel. We set up a special section for her at ***www.freeserve.com/entertainment/britney***, and fans making a pilgrimage to the page got a great reward – for Freeserve negotiated a deal to show the 'Oops!... I Did It Again' video in full on the site! Available for download via a 56K modem or quicker ISDN line, the video could also be viewed through RealPlayer.

Britney Spears – did it again

The video, directed by Nigel Dick, quickly reached the No. 1 spot as MTV's Most Requested Video. And sure enough, Britney – whom *the net* named in January as the most searched-for musical artist – flew to the top of the charts. It seems that with Freeserve and Britney, being No. 1 just comes naturally!

www.freeserve.com/entertainment/britney



Paul Merton – has he got cake for you

All the 'News' that's fit to upload

Friday nights wouldn't be complete without a dose of sarcastic news-quiz action from Angus Deayton, Paul Merton and Ian Hislop on the long-running TV series Have I Got News For You. But in a major new initiative being featured on Freeserve, fans of the show won't have to wait until the end of the week to enjoy the game. For the show is developing an interactive website which will allow visitors to play along every day of the week.

eHIGNFY, as the Web presence is known, will have such interactivity that it will be more of a channel than a site. There's a daily prediction contest, animated clips, partially blank headlines and photo-captions to fill in, an interactive Odd One Out, auditorium-style chats with Angus, Paul and Ian and a web-wide trivia game. These channels vary in technological scope from simple HTML to rich-media, and while some will be updated weekly, others will change daily. And it's hoped that Web-enabled mobile phones and interactive TV will help viewers and visitors interact ever more closely with the programme.

www.freeserve.com/entertainment

Internet radio station cooks up a Storm

Traditional radio stations have quickly cottoned on to the power of the Web, but Storm radio is the next generation: an Internet-only radio station. And better than that, it's celebrity-led: several of the 'E-Jayz' (as they are known) are famous in their own right.

So if any of you fellas out there fancy a bit of Jo Guest in your ear last thing at night, she's on Storm from 10pm till midnight. On the other hand, fans of former EastEnders heart-throb Joe Absolom can tune in every Sunday at 5pm. Other celebrity E-Jayz include Lara 'Tomb Raider' Croft model Nell McAndrew and pop star Kim Appleby. They've all been brought together by Storm MD Bruno Brookes, who's also masterminded the world's first audio chat room – wherein listeners can interact live during E-Jay Tom Davies' live show.

www. freeserve.com/fsradio

Joe Absolom plays a tune

Jo Guest: radio show

Freeserve fun with Lolly and 'sun

You can't fail to have noticed ITV's Year of Promise reaching a crescendo last month with the heavily-televised Day of Promise on 1 May. As part of our ongoing commitment to power the Year of Promise (such as designing and building the massive database of promises) Freeserve held three Web chats with three of today's brightest young pop stars.

First there was Madasun. Vicky, Vonda and Abby popped by for a chat about what it's like to tour as support for acts like Boyzone and Geri Halliwell. Then bouncy pop starlet Lolly brought the infectious enthusiasm which fired her to hits like 'Mickey' and 'Big Boys Don't Cry'. And the boys from SClub7 piled round a modem for a chat too; the people responsible for hits like 'Two In A Million' and 'You're My Number One' were in fine form. You can always rely on Freeserve to bring you the stars!

www.itv.yearofpromise.co.uk

SClub7 – seven in a million

Retna; PA

England's Glory

Greg Rusedski leading the British tennis charge at Wimbledon, Kevin Keegan's England are in a major international football tournament... It could be a heady summer of sport on Freeserve.

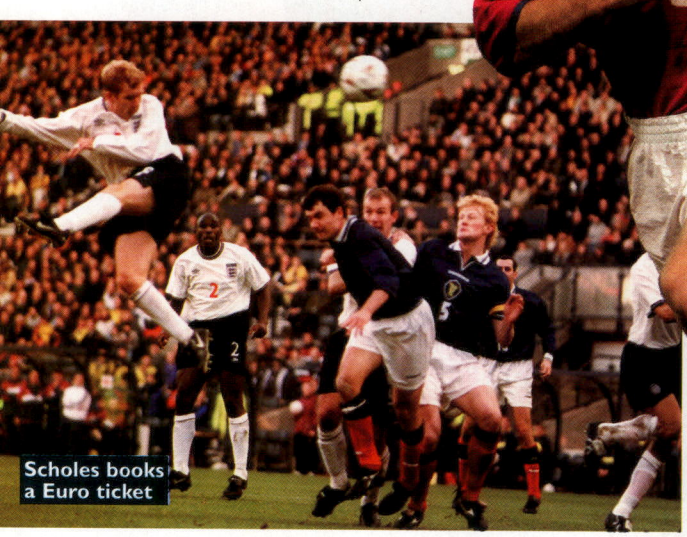
The sunny summer months should be spent on grass. For some, that involves picnics by country streams, but for others, that can only mean ball games are coming into their own. Summer wouldn't be the same without tennis from Wimbledon, the world's premier grass-court championship, and the Freeserve-sponsored Greg Rusedski will be aiming to put on a good show in front of his home crowd. Meanwhile in football, Kevin Keegan's England team travel to the Euro 2000 tournament with high hopes of sending retiring captain Alan Shearer off in style. Read on to see how Freeserve will bring you the best of both worlds.

Euro 2000

There are disadvantages to summer; hay fever, wasps and a lack of football. But while Freeserve can't provide antihistamines and Wasp-Eze, there's plenty of football fun to be had this summer on Freeserve Sport – because the European Championships start on 10 June. Four years ago, England hosted Euro 96 and scored famous wins over Scotland, Holland and Spain before bowing out to the Germans in the semi-final, making Gareth Southgate a household name.

Although his tenure as England manager has been mixed so far, Kevin Keegan is confident about his team's chances at Euro 2000, which is being staged in Belgium and Holland. And England might well be in with a shout if Keegan can harness the talents of players like David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Sol Campbell, the potential of youngsters like Owen and Kieron Dyer and the experience of the old guard of Tony Adams, David Seaman and Alan Shearer (the captain, who retires from international football after the tournament).

Europe's finest chase the trophy



Scholes books a Euro ticket

England's first group match is on 12 June (7.45pm BST) in Eindhoven against Portugal, a skilful attacking team capable of upsetting the applecart. Then it's over to Charleroi on 17 June (7.45pm BST) to renew acquaintances with Germany, although the Euro 96 winners are a shadow of their former selves. The final group game is also in Charleroi on 20 June (7.45pm BST) against Romania; the Balkans shocked England with a late winner in France 98, but Keegan's men should overcome an ageing team.

Further progress to the quarter-finals on 24/25 June, semi-finals on 28/29 June and final on 2 July would bring England face to face with the finest players in Europe. World Cup holders France will be led by the mercurial Zinedine Zidane, while co-hosts Holland boast Edgar 'the Pitbull' Davids. It's guaranteed to be a cracking month of football!

You can get all the latest news, reviews and scores on Freeserve Sport at *www.freeserve.com/sport*

powered by freeserve
www.freeserve.com

Wimbledon

Tennis used to be a bit of an embarrassment for British sports fans. John Lloyd aside, not one Englishman troubled the trophy room for decades since Fred Perry was a player rather than a line of clothing. But that's no longer the case: the game's greatest cup is now in danger of being kept on home soil again, as Britain boasts not one but two world-class players. Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman will both be going all-out to win at Wimbledon this month.

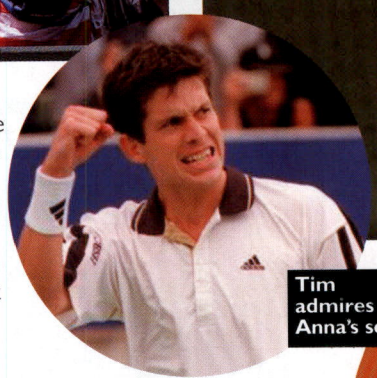
At 149mph, Greg's service is officially the fastest in the world. And the bad news for his opponents is that Greg loves to play on grass surfaces – and Wimbledon is the world's premier grass-court competition. The Montreal-born Briton really looks forward to playing in his

adopted homeland – for the raucous support of the home crowd and the opportunity to play on his favoured surface, and the chance to stay at home with his wife Lucy!

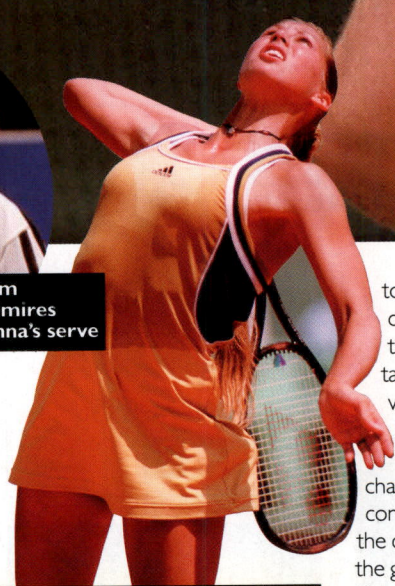
Meanwhile, his friend and rival Tim Henman has a point to prove after former champ John McEnroe claimed Tim didn't have the hunger to win the big trophies: 'I believe I've got what it takes to win Grand Slams and be up there with the world's best,' says the man who's a fixture in the world top ten.

Then of course there's the women's championships. There isn't such a strong British contingent in this section, but the popularity of the competition is assured as fans flock to see the grace and agility of players like Anna Kournikova. And whether you're watching the women or following the fellas, the only place to keep up with events is on Freeserve, the UK's top portal. Freeserve's extensive Wimbledon site at ***www.freeserve.com/sport*** will feature the latest news and scores so you're bang up to date. But there'll also be Web chats with Greg, competitions and a charity auction of various sports memorabilia.

Now that's an ace service!



Tim admires Anna's serve



Greg: plays best on grass

PA: Empics

'Greg loves to play on grass'

Also on Freeserve Sport this summer

It's not just Wimbledon and Euro 2000 on Freeserve Sport. Cricket is the archetypal summer game, and the sound of leather on willow will be echoing around Edgbaston on 15 June and Lord's on 29 June as England play their first and second Tests against the West Indies. The Speedster gadget (see p.vi) will be busy at those Tests!

The Formula 1 season is also hotting up, with the Canadian GP in Montreal on 18 June and the French GP in Magny-Cours on 2 July giving Michael Schumacher's rivals a chance to catch up. Then there's horse racing; June includes two of the biggest dates in the calendar of the Sport of Kings. The Derby at Epsom takes place on 10 June, while Royal Ascot takes place from 20-23 June.

All these sports and more are covered on Freeserve at *www.freeserve.com/sport*. And don't forget you can now follow the latest sports news via WAP phones, with the Freeserve Mobile Internet service bringing you great content from Planet Rugby, Football365, and Racetips.

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www.freeserve.com

Space of my own

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www.freeserve.com

Don't know what to write about on the 15Mb of free Web space? You don't have to take it seriously, as these light-hearted sites prove.

The British Lard Marketing Board

Stuck for an idea for what to put on your 15 megabytes of free Web space? In Tim Allen's case, inspiration came through work.

'My day job involved promoting a very healthy food – I won't name it,' explains Tim. 'I was so sick of goodness that I thought I'd go in the opposite direction and promote lard, nature's finest foodstuff.'

The result is the British Lard Marketing Board site, done in the style of those old public information leaflets and films. One of the highlights of the site is the page full of several pictures 'advertising' the fat-filled foodstuff, some of them take-offs of popular cigarette and clothes manufacturers' ad campaigns. All the advertisments, plus some 'British Lard' quality stamps, are downloadable to keep as wallpaper on your PC if you wish.

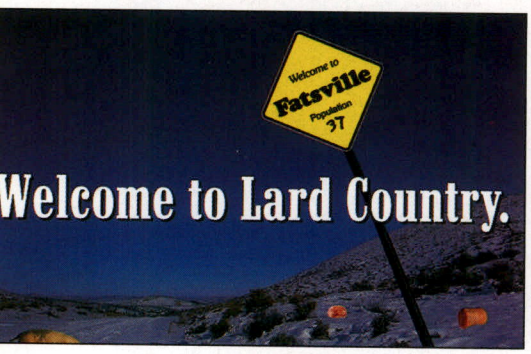
The fun doesn't stop there. There's a recipe for Baked Alardska, plus a mock album ('Music to Eat Pies By') with tracks like 'A Lard Day's Night' and 'The Millardium Prayer'. There's also a hilarious history of lard, a petition to get it more widely accepted and links to lardy sites. And if you like a bit of action, there's even a 'lard-cam' set up in Tim's fridge.

It's a great site and you get the impression it took ages for Tim and 'Head Chef' Calvin Hiscock to create, but Tim insists it didn't.

'It took about a month of evenings to start with, then about another week's work adding new stuff.'

And is it difficult to keep on top of? 'Not really; we've just had to keep the praise page up to date recently because we've been on Radio 2 and in the *Sunday Times*.' And now *the net*... just think, it could be your site becoming famous on these pages next time!

www.blmb.freeserve.co.uk



The Chas 'n' Dave Web site

One of the prime ways in which an area maintains its cultural identity is through music. So it is with the East End of London, and no one does a Cockney knees-up with the panache and flair of Chas 'n' Dave. Fittingly, there's a fine Web site celebrating their achievements.

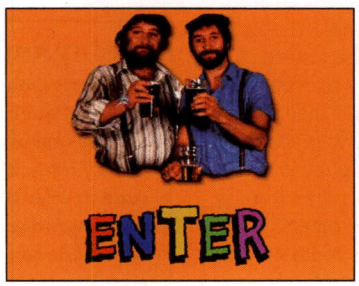
The year 2000 marks the 25th anniversary of the duo's involvement in the music business. Back in 1975 they released the 'One Fing 'n' Annuver' album, which was followed by hits with 'Gertcha' and 'Rabbit', but it was a link-up with their beloved Tottenham Hotspur that saw them hit the big time with 'Ossie's Dream'. They later teamed up with several stars of the green baize to record 'Snooker Loopy'!

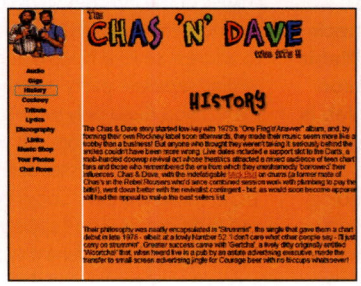
So what can you find on the shrine to Chas Hodges (hat, beard and bass), Dave Peacock (hat, beard and piano) and of course Micky Burt (hat, no beard and drums)? Well for a start there are audio clips to help you remember classics like 'Stars Over 45', 'Margate' and the No.2 hit 'Ain't No Pleasing You'. And there's a gig list so you can find when they're playing near you.

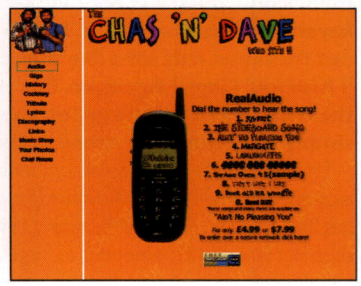
There's also a handy dictionary of Cockney rhyming slang, lyrics, a chat room and details of tribute band Daz 'n' Chave...

www.chasndave.freeserve.co.uk

Chas (right) looks glum after a shave







The Alternative to Food and Drink UK

The food prepared on the cookery programmes on TV may look sumptuous, but the truth is people often don't have enough time for extensive preparation. Or, as The Alternative to Food and Drink (TATFAD) puts it, 'If you simply can't be bothered to cook, drink or buy all that posh nosh they show on TV, you've come to the right place.'

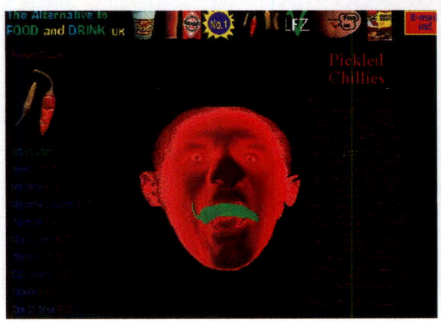
It's a haven for fans of Pot Noodles, pickled chillies and supermarket beer. And not only that, but each product is assessed on several criteria and marked accordingly. There are recipes on there, but they don't stretch much further than 'Pot Noodles on toast'.

It's not a site for those who like bland flavours. There's an entire section devoted to pickled chillies and one for pickled gherkins. Several tabasco-style sauces get a taste test too.

But it's not all solid food and spices – well, it is the alternative food *and* drink. And so, TATFAD has a section devoted to budget alcohol from supermarkets, each evaluated on its taste. There's even a beer critic in Jolly Golden (whose hobbies, it's claimed, include 'shooting lentils from a bicycle pump'). And if you're vegetarian but lentils make you shudder, you'll like TATFAD's veggie section – a self-declared 'Lentil-Free Zone'.

www.southroad.freeserve.co.uk/AltFood.htm

These three wouldn't like the site one bit



PA; Retna

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Email Intuition

Communication has been revolutionised by email. Gary Parkinson explains the two main types of it.

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www.freeserve.com

Quick question: Why do most people log on to the Internet? Is it to surf for MP3s by their favourite artist? No, although MP3 is now the most popular term keyed into search engines. Is it to check out the latest cult sites like that of Mahir 'I Kiss You' Cagri? Again, no. The reason the majority of people get on the Web is simply to access their email accounts.

Email is arguably the key reason behind the explosion of the Internet. Advancing technology has helped, as has the proliferation of interesting sites. But faced with something as large and anonymous as the Web, people take refuge in their personal area – their email account.

Email has several major advantages over other methods of communication. It's immediate; you don't have to wait like you would for a letter to get to Australia. It's very inexpensive; with Freeserve, there's no charge for as many email addresses as you want and the act of sending each email message itself is free – you just pay for the price of the local call to connect to the Web once you're ready to send. Or maybe you access the Internet – and therefore email – at work, school or college, in which case it's effectively free!

It's also got all the benefits of writing a letter, with few of the drawbacks. You can dash off a one-line invitation or joke in seconds, or you can carefully craft a long epistle to a loved one. There are few of the rules which dog letter-writing – you don't have to worry whether it's 'Yours Sincerely' or 'Yours Faithfully', for example, and you won't get told off if you spell a word wrong.

So an email combines the immediacy of a phone-call with the tailored consideration of a letter. No wonder it has revitalised communications around the world; friends and contacts can get hold of each other quickly, easily and effectively. In addition, e-commerce has seen an increasing number of surfers harnessing the power of the Internet to purchase by email.

Another superb feature of email is the ability to address several people at once. Instead of writing separate party invitations to dozens of friends, you need only write one – then send it to all your friends at once. If you want to keep people's email addresses secret, put them in the 'BCC' (Blind Carbon Copy) box rather than 'To' and their details won't appear to others.

There are two different types of email account: desktop and Web-based. They both work well, although in slightly different ways, and we'll take you through both of them.

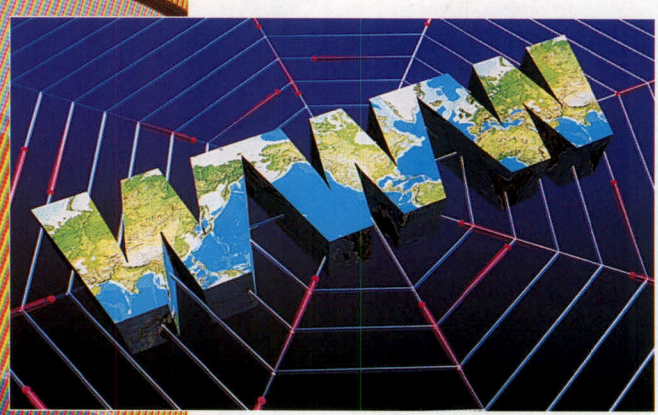
• Desktop Email

Most people's first experience of email is through Outlook Express, the Microsoft email package which comes ready-installed on most PCs. Outlook is a powerful example of the workstation-based email package, which is individually tailored to your very own PC.

When you sign up to Freeserve, you get an unlimited number of personal email addresses. Freeserve email addresses come in the form ***name@domain.freeserve.co.uk*** (or, alternatively, ***name@domain.fsnet.co.uk***, or maybe even ***name@domain.fsbusiness.co.uk***). You get to choose the bits in bold.

Netiquette

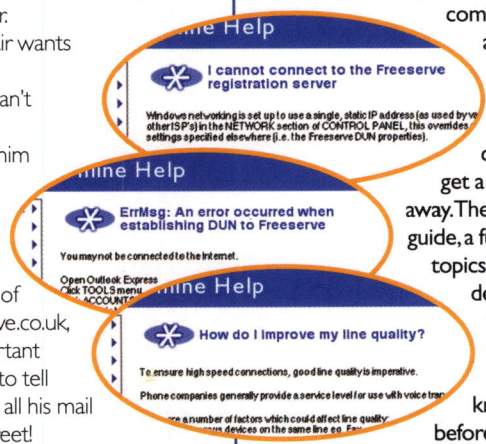
Although email is a much less uptight medium than the humble letter, there are still one or two things to keep in mind. Firstly, it's considered slightly rude to offer things for sale via email. Perhaps more important is to take care when sending attachments with email messages. Sizeable files – like audio or video clips and large pictures – can take several minutes to download on a modem, so while a funny pic might only take a second to download through your work server, it won't be quite so amusing to those who have to wait 15 minutes to download it at home!



powered by freeserve www.freeserve.com

So for example if Tony Blair were to set up an email account with Freeserve, he could choose **tony@blair**.freeserve.co.uk – providing no other Freeserve user has taken the domain name (in this case 'blair'). He could then have unlimited email addresses by changing the name before the @ – like cherie@blair.freeserve.co.uk, mandy@blair.freeserve.co.uk or even christeningpresents@blair.freeserve.co.uk. In fact, whatever anyone writes before the @, it will get to Tony's computer.

Now let's say Lionel Blair wants to set up an account with Freeserve. Obviously he can't have blair.freeserve.co.uk, because the PM's beaten him to it. He'd be given the option of 'blair' with a number after it, so he might end up with something along the lines of **lionel@blair123**.freeserve.co.uk, but – and this is the important point – he mustn't forget to tell people about the '123', or all his mail will go to 10 Downing Street!



• Web-based Email

The big drawback with desktop email is that you can usually only access it from your workstation (be that at home, work or school) – which explains the rise of Web-based email. This is a type of email which isn't based on your desktop but stored on a Web site on a remote server.

Web-based email has bonuses and drawbacks. On the plus side, it doesn't take up any room on your computer and doesn't require a separate email application like Outlook Express (useful if your PC isn't happy running multiple applications). Best of all, it's accessible from any Net-connected terminal in the world (for example when on holiday or away on business).

Weighed against the bonuses is that you only get limited space on the server – understandably enough, given the massive popularity of Web-based email. Millions of Internet users don't have desktop email – many don't even have desktops, logging on at cybercafes or shared terminals at work, school or college – and so the main players in Web-based email tend to be tremendously popular and you therefore have to keep your mailbox size lower than it might be at home.

A Web-based email address is quite separate to your desktop address; although there's nothing to stop you having one (or more) of each, messages delivered to one won't be accessible from the other. However, it's worth pointing out that the Freeserve Web-based email service FSmail also allows you to log on to your desktop (workstation-based) freeserve.co.uk, fsnet.co.uk or fsbusiness.co.uk addresses.

www.freeserve.com/help

Online help

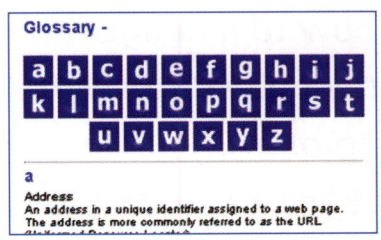
We've put together an awesome set of answers for all your technical queries. It's available on our website – and it's free!

What are my options?

If you're new to the Net, Freeserve is committed to making it as easy as possible for you to get online. We've designed the help section on the Freeserve website so you can turn to Freeserve and get a straight answer, straight away. There's a complete content guide, a full alphabetical index of topics and a find function – all designed to take you straight to the answer you need. Separate sections deal with everything you need to know to avoid problems before set-up, and tell you what to expect as you begin to install the software from the CD-ROM onto your machine. It really is that simple!

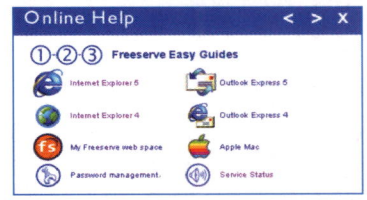
How does online help work?

It's easy! There are four main sources of information. Read through the descriptions below and you'll soon see which best suits the type of query you have. Then connect to Freeserve, visit the help section and get all your questions answered quickly.



The Glossary

If there's an Internet expression you don't understand, turn to our glossary first. It's more than likely to be there.



The Easy Guides

If there's an area of your Net use that is causing you difficulty, turn to our Easy Guides for a complete solution. You'll find answers sorted by subject.

Questions and Answers

If there's a specific question you need answered, turn to our Q&A section for rapid help. First select the general area from our drop-down menu, then a specific question. You may find your question has already been answered.

Contacts

If you still need help, you can email our support staff. They're the same people who staff our phone helpdesks, and they're trained to deal with your queries. Direct email addresses are listed on the contacts page. They'll be happy to help you!

How do I find answers on the CD?

Alternatively, there's also a fully comprehensive Help feature on the Freeserve start-up CD-ROM. When you put the CD in your machine you'll be given four options. The help button takes you to a comprehensive set of instructions to enable you to get online with Freeserve.

Phoneline help

Our experts are on call 24 hours a day

Using Freeserve's online help couldn't be simpler, but from time to time you might have a direct question for one of our experts. To help you get the most out of your connection, Freeserve's Technical Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Make sure you've consulted our online help before you call, as you may find we've already answered your question. If not, our trained staff can provide you with instant answers in plain English on a range of Internet subjects. Calls cost 50p per minute.

PC Support 0906 2517517 Mac 0906 7234000

Image Bank

Sign up online or pick up a free CD at any branch of

be free to get what you want

You'll find all you need on Freeserve, from your favourite sports to how to manage money, plus online Shopping, Entertainment and Learning. What's more, you can buy and sell almost anything on the Auctions channel. Using our Search, you can find what you need on the Internet quickly and easily. Our chat rooms let you meet like-minded people and with our email services you can send and receive emails, from your computer or phone, anywhere in the world. With Freeserve, you're free to do whatever you want, whenever you want.

THE UK's No. 1 FOR THE INTERNET

stepbystep

This month: improve your searching techniques; all the kit you need to stay online while on the move; plus our beginners' guides to email, newsgroups and Web chat

Your technical problems well sorted with our easy-to-follow guide to the Net

WHAT IS THE INTERNET?

The Internet is a huge global network of computers, with literally millions of machines connected together across the planet.

HOW DO I GET ON IT?

All you really need is a computer, a modem, an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and a telephone line.

WHAT CAN I DO THERE?

1 **Surf the Worldwide Web.**
2 Send someone an email.
3 **Take part in a newsgroup discussion.**
4 Make friends and get chatting with people from all over the world.

CONTENTS

140 CHOOSING AN ISP
Find the one that's right for you with our guide

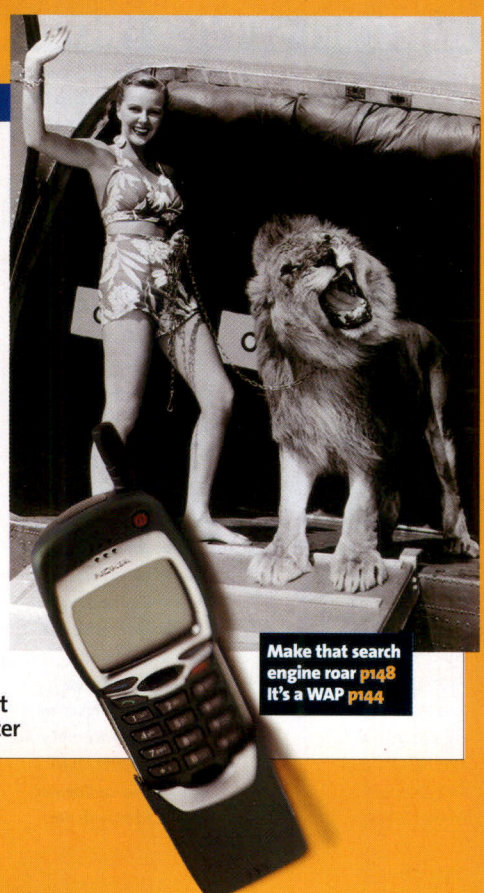
144 HARDWARE
WAPs and palms – what you need to stay online while on the move

148 SEARCHING
Search and ye shall find with our guide to seeking out what you want on the Net

152 EMAIL
How to set up Outlook Express – the easy way

155 NEWSGROUPS
Hook-up and take part in one – today

156 WEB CHAT
How to acquire the art of chat on the Net and where to natter



Make that search engine roar p148
It's a WAP p144

They'll do anything to get you online

What Service Provider?

July 2000 Are you drowning in a sea of ISPs, trying to decide which one will best suit your needs? Then consult our indispensable guide

What is an ISP?

An Internet service provider, or ISP, is a company that connects you to the Internet. All you need do is exploit the provider's permanent Net connection by connecting to it.

Get the best ISP deal

Right now, literally hundreds of ISPs are vying for your business – which is great news for consumers. But to help you make a truly informed decision, we've tested the best service providers on the market.

Below, you'll find our ratings for the current crop of the best ISPs looking to connect you. There are several companies that are now offering completely free access – and that includes the price of the phone call that connects you to the Internet. LocalTel pioneered this service back in the spring with the launch of Screaming.Net. Since then several companies have started to offer free calls to the Net at certain times of the day. CallNeto800 has also launched and is offering completely free access at any time of the day. This new breed of ISP is set to change the landscape of Net access in the UK, as several other service providers investigate the possibility of offering completely free access in a bid to keep up with new trends. In other words, the future couldn't be brighter for Net consumers, as the price of getting online continues to go down.

Call costs

It's worth checking how much you'll be paying for the phone calls that connect you to the Net. Apart from the new breed of free services, nearly every ISP charges local call rates. For BT customers, this means 4p/min on weekdays between 8am-6pm; 1.5p/min during off-peak times, and 1p/min at the weekend. Check with your phone company.

Speeding up

To say things are only going to get faster is an understatement. BT is due to roll out its ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) in July. It will offer an 'always on' high speed connection to the Net with data delivery speeds of 10-40 times a conventional modem. At the moment, most modems operate at 56kbps (kilobits per second) or less. For more information, see page 143.

BEGINNER'S TIP

Put the phone number you use to dial up to the Internet on your BT Friends and Family list.

INTERMEDIATE TIP

Set up several free accounts. If for any reason you cannot connect to one provider, simply try another one. There's no limit to how many accounts you have.

ADVANCED TIP

Consider installing an extra phone line. It means you can have one for the phone and one for your modem, so you can use the Internet as much as you like.

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

ISP NAME	WEB ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF SERVICE
Aardvark **FREE**	***www.aardvark.co.uk***	London-based ISP which promises no banner advertising	Unlimited
AngliaNet Limited	***www.anglianet.co.uk***	Dial-up, web hosting and design for home and business users	Unlimited
AOL	***www.aol.co.uk***	A large ISP offering proprietary software to try to make connecting painless	Unlimited
Aviators Network	***www.aviators.net***	An ISP designed with aircraft-related content for the pilot and the enthusiast	Unlimited
Bigwig **FREE**	***www.bigwig.net***	Free access in a clear and well-presented package	Unlimited
BREATHE **FREE**	***www.breathe.co.uk***	Well-established free ISP. Easy-to-use site design	Unlimited
Btclick.com **FREE**	***www.btclick.com***	The free Internet service from BT	Unlimited
BT Internet	***www.btinternet.com***	Another Internet arm of BT, offering a full access package	Unlimited
Bun **FREE**	***www.bun.com***	The free ISP offering of *The Sun* newspaper	Unlimited
Cable and Wireless Lite **FREE**	***www.cwcom.net***	Free Net access for CW customers	Unlimited
CALLNET **FREE**	***www.callnetuk.com***	Innovative free ISP offering enhanced Web-based services	Unlimited
CIX	***www.cix.co.uk***	The Compulink Information eXchange. Provides Internet conferencing accounts	Unlimited
ClaraNET Ltd	***www.clara.net***	Subscription-based ISP with a range of account options to suit any needs	Unlimited
Compuserve	***www.compuserve.com***	Long-standing ISP which offers proprietary software to aid ease-of-use and level of service	Unlimited
Connect Free **FREE**	***www.connectfree.net***	One of the very first free ISPs	Unlimited
CYBERphile Internet	***www.cyberphile.co.uk***	Business-oriented, Midlands-based provider. Specialists in leased lines, LANs, firewalls, ISDN etc	Unlimited
Dabsol **FREE**	***www.dabsol.net***	Free ISP with online sign-up help and comprehensive features	Unlimited
Demon Internet	***www.demon.co.uk***	The UK's original dial-up account today aspires to be the industry's 'Premium' service	Unlimited
Direct Connection	***www.dircon.net***	Home and business ISP offering global roaming among their services	Unlimited
Easynet Ltd	***www.easynet.net***	Subscription-based dial-up service. Winner of best European ISP at this year's ISPA awards	Unlimited
EidosNet **FREE**	***www.eidosnet.co.uk***	EidosNet is brought to you by Eidos, publishers of *Tomb Raider* and other great games	Unlimited
Enterprise plc	***www.enterprise.net***	Subscription-based ISP with a host of features including game and news servers	Unlimited
F9 Free **FREE**	***www.f9.net.uk***	Free ISP from previously subscription-only service Force 9	Unlimited
Firstnet Services Ltd	***www.firstnet.co.uk***	Business Internet solution provider	Unlimited
First Web	***www.first-web.co.uk***	ISP based in Middlesex. Provides Internet solutions for businesses	Unlimited
Free Internet **FREE**	***www.free-internet.co.uk***	Free access, free mail and Web space. Comprehensive service in a neat package	Unlimited
FREENET **FREE**	***www.freenet.co.uk***	More free access with a gaming bias. Online auto sign-up and newsgroups add to the interest	Unlimited
Free Online **FREE**	***www.free-online.net***	Straightforward free ISP offering news and email	Unlimited
Freeserve **FREE**	***www.freeserve.net***	Free provider from the Dixons Group of companies	Unlimited

what service provider?

ISPs explained Using our easy-to-follow guide

FREE CONNECTIONS
There are now many companies that will get you on to the Internet without charging a subscription fee – the only thing you pay for is the price of the phone call that connects you.

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES
Despite the plethora of free ISPs springing up, there are still many which charge a flat monthly fee. These generally offer free technical support; most free ISPs charge by the minute.

CONTENT PROVIDERS
Content providers also charge to get you online, but provide exclusive content to members, and a sense of 'community'.

How the tables work

Description
A brief description of the services offered by the ISP in question.

Type of service
Tells you whether there is any restriction on how often you can use the Internet.

Phone number
The number to ring if you want to sign up.

Email addresses
Some service providers give you only one email address, others provide as many as you want.

Content
Outlines whether the service provider in question provides its own content and whether it is exclusive to its users.

Macintosh support
Not all service providers offer software and technical support for Macs, preferring to concentrate on PCs – so be sure to check this column out if you're an Apple user.

Web space
If you are interested in designing your own Web page, most Internet Service Providers will give you space to store it on. 2Mb should be enough for most people's requirements.

Set-up fee
Some ISPs charge a fee to open an account.

Monthly charge
If you don't go with a free ISP, then you'll pay a set amount per month to be online.

Phone support charges
Technical support is great – as long as you're not having to pay a fortune to benefit from it. Find out how much free service providers charge per minute for calls to their technical support desks.

Telephone support hours
The hours when the technical support desk will be open to take your calls.

Our ISP testing is carried out by NetBasics, an independent company specialising in providing ISP information for consumers and businesses. NetBasics makes every effort to ensure that the data presented to you is correct. The publishers of *the Net* and NetBasics cannot be held liable for any damages caused by the publication of this data. Any Internet service provider that wishes to be included in the evaluation programme should contact eval@netbasics.com **For more information on NetBasics, visit its Web site at *www.netbasics.com*.**

PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	CONTENT	MAC SUPPORT	WEB SPACE	SET-UP FEE	MONTHLY CHARGE	PHONE SUPPORT CHARGES	PHONE SUPPORT HOURS
Sign up online	1	None	No	0	None	0	Unavailable	n/a
01473 211922	1	None	Yes	5Mb	0	11.75	Mobile	9-5 M-F, 8-9 S-S
0800 3765432	5	Massive amount of content	Yes	10Mb	0	16.95	Free	8-10.30M-F 9-9.30S-S
0700 2842867	1	'Flightalogue' lists a host of goodies	No	15Mb	0	11.75	Standard	9-9 7 days
01509 651 451	5	None	No	15Mb	0	0	£1 per minute	9-9 M-F, 10-8 S-S
0870 6006006	5	Entertainment, sport, shopping, finance etc	Yes	10Mb	0	0	50p per minute	24/7
0800 800001	Unlimited	From Excite	Yes	0	0	0	50p per minute	8-12 Midnight
0800 800001	5	None	Yes	10Mb	0	11.75	Local	24/7
0845 3063636	5	Online dating, Bunshopping, *The Sun* online etc	Yes	25Mb	0	0	50p per minute	24/7
0800 0923 001	5	Channels and account administration	No	20 Mb	0	0	National	24/7
0171 3358300	5	Chat servers, channels, services, Web news	Yes	20Mb	0	0	Free	24/7
0845 3555050	Unlimited	None	Yes	30Mb	0	17.61	Local call	9-10 M-F, 12-6 S-S
0800 3582828	Unlimited	None	Yes	25Mb	0	8.99	Free	24/7
0990 000200	5	A large range of channels and a search engine	No	10Mb	0	16.95	National	8-12 Midnight
SIgn up online	Unlimited	Channel-based content provided by Virgin	No	Unlimited	0	0	Unavailable	24/7
01543 454840	1	None	Yes	0.1Mb	0	11.74	Standard	8.30-6 M-F
Sign up online	Unlimited	None	No	Unlimited	0	0	Metered	24/7
0181 3711234	Unlimited	None	Yes	20Mb	0	11.75	Local	24/7
0800 0720000	Unlimited	User zone containing handy member services	Yes	20Mb	0	13.50	Local	9-9 7days
0171 6814444	Unlimited	None	Yes	2Mb	0	11.99	Free	24/7
Sign up online	Unlimited	Free access to the Mplayer games network	No	20Mb	0	0	50p per minute	24/7
01624 677666	Unlimited	None	Yes	5Mb	0	11.75	Local	9-10 M-F 10-4 S-S
0800 0737800	Unlimited	None	Yes	15Mb	0	0	National	7-11, 7 Days
0113 294 4224	Unlimited	Search engines and support	Yes	10Mb	0	12.50	Local	Business hours
0870 740 9223	4	None	No	5Mb	0	7.73	Local	24/7
Sign up online	1	Newsgroups and IE5 download	No	10Mb	0	0	Metered	24/7
01329 511611	Unlimited	Games links and independent status	Yes	20Mb	0	0	National rates	9-6 7 days
0870 7060504	5	None	Yes	Unlimited	0	0	Premium rate	24/7
0990 500049	Unlimited	Extensive channel-based content	Yes	15Mb	0	0	50p per minute	24/7

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

ISP NAME	WEB ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF SERVICE
Free to You **FREE**	***www.free2you.co.uk***	No-frills free ISP with online sign-up	Unlimited
Freeway **FREE**	***www.freewayuk.com***	Free access, email and Web space in a neat package	Unlimited
Freewire **FREE**	***www.freewire.net***	Free ISP with no sign-up requirements	Unlimited
Freezone **FREE**	***www.freezone.co.uk***	A free ISP offering the usual package in a smart format	Unlimited
Gateway 2000 **FREE**	***www.ukgateway.net***	An ISP service from the hardware retailers of the same name. Packaged with Gateway computers	Unlimited
Go Free **FREE**	***www.gofree.co.uk***	Free ISP offering online sign-up, complete with helpline	Unlimited
IC24 **FREE**	***www.ic24.net***	The free ISP service of Mirror Group Newspapers	Unlimited
LineOne **FREE**	***www.lineone.net***	BT's Internet service has recently dropped its subscription charge	Unlimited
London Web Comm Ltd	***www.londonweb.net***	An emphasis on corporate clientele. Useful London Local Directory	Unlimited
Netcom	***www.netcom.net.uk***	A comprehensive range of services to the home and business user	Unlimited
Paradise Internet Network Service	***www.pins.co.uk***	Paradise Internet is a subscription provider which also authors software	Unlimited
Screaming.net **FREE**	***www.screaming.net***	The pioneer of the free access/free phone call model	Unlimited
Sonnet Internet Ltd	***www.sonnet.co.uk***	Packages and solutions for the private and business user	Unlimited
This is it! **FREE**	***www.thisisit.co.uk***	End-user targeted free ISP	Unlimited
UK Fantastic **FREE**	***www.ukfantastic.net***	Spirited free ISP offering good online technical help	Unlimited
UK Online Ltd **FREE**	***www.ukonline.co.uk***	A family-friendly free ISP with plenty of shareware and gaming software. Sign up online	Unlimited
UK People **FREE**	***www.ukpeople.net***	Free ISP, online chat, set-up and help	Unlimited
Virgin Net **FREE**	***www.virgin.net***	The long-standing ISP now offering a stylish free Internet access service	Unlimited
Which? Online	***www.which.net***	A free ISP from the eponymous consumer affairs magazine	Unlimited
Wireplay Internet **FREE**	***www.wireplay.com***	Wireplay is an online games network offering access to Intranet-based fast games servers	Unlimited
X-Stream Network **FREE**	***www.x-stream.com***	Offers enhanced member services, such as occasional free phone calls to the Net	Unlimited

Network performance

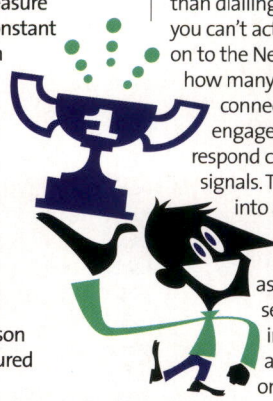
July 2000

Independent testing carried out by NetBasics – contact eval@netbasics.com

We test the best ISPs in the country for the reliability and speed of their connection. The tests are conducted in three areas and a star rating is given indicative of their performance. The three areas of testing are:

VARIATION IN MODEM SPEED

This is a gauge to measure whether you get a constant speed once a modem connects to an ISP. ISPs should offer a constant speed and we measure any variation. Each ISP starts with 100 percent and loses position the greater the variance in connection. This is achieved by comparison so that no ISP is favoured above others.



VARIATION IN TIME TO CONNECT

This section of the test measures the variation in how long it takes to get connected to your ISP. The reading is taken from the stage between clicking 'Connect' and then physically connecting.

AVAILABILITY

There's nothing more frustrating than dialling your ISP and finding you can't actually get through and on to the Net. This area measures how many times an ISP refuses to connect, either through the engaged tone, or if it does not respond correctly to modem signals. The results are combined into a single reading giving us a fair way to chart ISPs based on relevant aspects of their dial-in service. The results shown in the chart are based on a sample of 50 ISPs from ongoing tests.

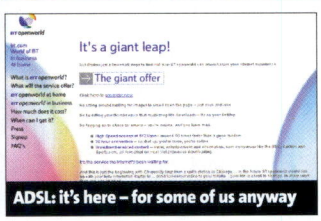
FIRSTNET Services Limited

1	Firstnet	★★★★★	
2	Netcom	★★★★★	
3	AngliaNet	★★★★★	
4	Cyberphile	★★★★★	
5	Wireplay	★★★★★	
6	Enterprise	★★★★★	
7	BT Internet	★★★★★	
8	LineOne	★★★★★	
9	Aviators Network	★★★★★	
10	Direct Connection	★★★★★	
11	Callnet	★★★★★	
12	London Web	★★★★★	
13	Gateway 2000	★★★★★	
14	Sonnet Internet	★★★★★	
15	Freewire	★★★★★	
16	Free Internet	★★★★★	
17	Paradise Internet	★★★★★	
18	This is it	★★★★★	
19	BT Click	★★★★	
20	Free Online	★★★★	
21	F9 Free	★★★★	
22	Freenet	★★★★	
23	Freeserve	★★★★	
24	Free To You	★★★★	
25	Dabsol	★★★★	
26	Bun	★★★★	
27	Easynet	★★★★	
28	Eisdosnet	★★★	
29	Go Free	★★★	
30	Compuserve	★★★	
31	Breathe	★★★	
32	AOL	★★★	
33	VIrgin Net	★★★	
34	UK Online	★★★	
35	Claranet	★★★	
36	X-Stream Network	★★★	
37	Screaming.net	★★★	
38	Demon Internet	★★★	
39	Which? Online	★★	
40	CIX	★★	
41	Cable and Wireless	★★	
42	IC24	★★	
43	Freezone	★★	
44	Connect Free	★★	
45	UK Fantastic	★★	
46	UK People	★★	
47	Aardvark	★★	
48	Bigwig	★★	
49	First Web	★★	
50	Freeway	★★	

what service provider?

PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	CONTENT	MAC SUPPORT	WEB SPACE	SET-UP FEE	MONTHLY CHARGE	PHONE SUPPORT CHARGES	PHONE SUPPORT HOURS
Sign up online	Unlimited	Search engine page and technical support	No	10Mb	0	0	Available soon	n/a
Sign up online	Unlimited	News, sport, weather and shopping	No	20Mb	0	0	50p per minute	24/7
Sign up online	Unlimited	None	No	50Mb	0	0	50p per minute	24/7
0870 7441111	Unlimited	On-site search engine access	No	20Mb	0	0	50p per minute	24/7
At Gateway Stores	Unlimited	None	No	10Mb	0	0	Free	24/7
Sign up online	Unlimited	None	No	20Mb	0	0	Metered	24/7
0870 9090262	Unlimited	Channel based content with news, sport, weather	No	10Mb	0	0	50p per minute	24/7
0800 111210	5	News, shopping, sport, community etc	Yes	10Mb	0	0	50p per minute	8-Midnight M-Sa
0181 3494500	3	None	Yes	5Mb	17.63	14.68	Standard	9-9 M-Sa
0870 5668008	20	A business oriented portal site	Yes	25Mb	0	14.95	National	24/7
01256 414863	1	None	Yes	2Mb	17.63	9.40	National	11-7 M-F
Sign up at Tempo	Unlimited	Travel, entertainment, business, sport etc	No	10Mb	0	0	50p per minute	24/7
0171 8912000	Unlimited	None	Yes	5Mb	0	12.50	National	9-9 M-S
0906 9124000	Unlimited	None	No	20Mb	0	0	£1 per minute	24/7
Sign up online	Unlimited	None	Yes	5Mb	0	0	£1 per minute	24/7
01749 333333	1	None	Yes	Unlimited	0	0	50p per minute	24/7
Sign up online	Unlimited	An online community, games and downloads	No	5Mb	0	0	50p per minute	24/7
0500 558800	5	Several Virgin channels	Yes	10Mb	0	0	50p per minute	24/7
0645 830240	1	Online shopping and consumer affairs content	Yes	2Mb	11.75	14.75	Free	24/7
0845 757 7577	0	Games news, games chat, games add-ons	No	0	0	0	50p per minute	12pm-12 am, 7 days
0870 7306466	1	Chat, news, lifestyle, shopping, etc	No	20Mb	0	0	50p per minute	24/7

ISP NEWS IN BRIEF All the service provider news you need

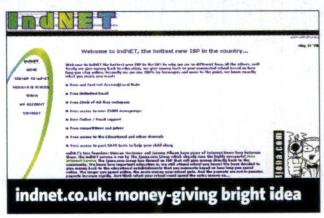


ADSL: it's here – for some of us anyway

ADSL – how much?

BT has finally announced its pricing structure for its high-speed ADSL service, which will become available in July. The digital service is set to cost £39.99 a month, but there's also a one-off installation fee of £150. However, this fee will be waived for anyone who pre-orders before the end of June 2000. BT claims that 35 percent of all UK households will be in ADSL-enabled areas by the time the service launches, and that this figure should double within the next two years.

www.btopenworld.com



indnet.co.uk: money-giving bright idea

Pupil power ISP

Two A-level students from Kent have launched IndNET, a money-giving ISP that will help schools nationwide. Jeremy Allison and Duncan MacInnes, both 17, created the service, which works on a cash-for-usage basis. Schools promote the service to parents or pupils, who then nominate the school when signing up. The more time users spend online via a local rate 0845 number, the more money the school receives. ***www.indnet.co.uk***

Taking a Liberty

LibertySurf, formerly known as the X-Stream Network, is offering unmetered, off-peak Internet access for a single annual payment of £20. And for an extra £15 a year, you can have 24-hour, seven-days-a-week unmetered access. There is no need to change your telephony provider and all users are to be offered unlimited email addresses.

Principal shareholders in LibertySurf include Europ@Web and the Kingfisher Group, which owns B&Q, Comet, Woolworths and Superdrug. Potential users can pick up a CD-ROM and subscribe to the service at Comet, MVC and Woolworths (the latter was due to come on board in June, but no date was given as we went to press). For details of your nearest Comet and MVC stockists, call 0845 600 7002 and 0541 525520. You can upgrade to the 24-hour, seven-day service from the site.

www.libertysurf.co.uk

LibertySurf: will offer content but primarily designed to get people online cheaply

Will free access die out?

Flat-rate, unmetered access will die out within two years, according to independent research firm Forrester. The company claims that such price wars lead to little consumer loyalty and that flat-rate access will destroy ISP business models, which were originally built around call revenue-sharing with telephone companies. Read the report for yourself at ***www.forrester.com***.

INTERNET TO GO

Can't bear to be offline for a second? You need a WAP phone or Net-enabled handheld!

You're at the dullest conference of your life in a town you've never been to before. You can't face the evening knees-up and would rather pop out for chicken tikka – and a quick check on your mobile phone tells you the names of two curry houses within walking distance of your hotel. Or imagine that you're on a packed train to Dundee when you realise you've forgotten your mother's birthday. A few taps on your mobile and flowers and chocs are on their way – without you once yelling into the phone and annoying fellow travellers.

This is what the future holds for those people about to embrace the new mobile phone technology and get into Wireless Access Protocol.

WAP gurus agree that the system is in a clunky infancy, and there are at least two new technologies in the pipeline offering greatly increased Internet access speeds – but if you're thinking of changing your existing mobile, you could do worse than get in at the start of something that's going to be huge. And here are the phones that let you do it, along with some great new PDAs and handhelds.

WHAT'S WITH WAP?

Wireless Application Protocol is the latest way to make the most of the Internet, with simple sites that can be easily accessed and read from the screen of a mobile phone – and it's all for about 5p a minute, depending on your phone provider. There's a limited range of sites right now and news coverage can be a bit patchy, but there will soon be plenty of tailored information available along the lines of the existing sport and stock market news, as more and more Web sites get themselves WAP-ped up.

MOTOROLA TIMEPORT P7389 £99.99

at ***www.carphonewarehouse.co.uk***

Features like voice-activated dialling and infrared connection to compatible PCs or handhelds make this phone a joy to use. It's heavier than other models, but being a bit robust is not a bad thing. The high-contrast display is easy to read in most light conditions, although you may need to study the manual before you get something on it you want to look at.

ERICSSON R320

Price unavailable at present

Don't be fooled by the pretty colours (Rock Red, Atlantic Blue and Stone Purple are the current offerings), Ericsson is entering the WAP arena with a powerful contender. Save data-entry time by synchronising the R320's phonebook and calendar with those on your computer, and record voice memos in those moments you don't have time to key in a message. The screen holds five lines of text and the menu system is simple to find your way around, although initially there is a bewilderingly vast array of choices. Thankfully, the shortcut function can be used to take you quickly and easily where you want to go.

SONY CMD-Z5

Price unavailable at present

By far the smallest and lightest WAP phone around, with an impressive set of features. Despite the size, the screen is quite readable and the email and WAP functions are simple to use, thanks to the nifty 'jog' dial which is both a scrolling tool and a selection button. The CMD-Z5 is also the first phone to use Microsoft's cut-down browser, Mobile Explorer, which means you'll be able to access normal Web pages. Larger-fingered users might be driven mad by the keys – but that's the price you pay to impress friends with a phone smaller than a credit card.

WILD PALMS

3COM PALM VX £270.24

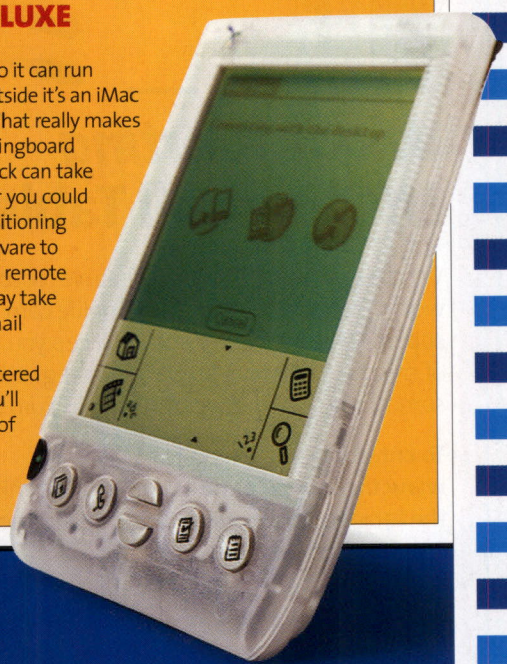
at ***www.microwarehouse.co.uk***

Only half as thick as the Palm III, this sexy, slim PDA has some big, fat features. With a generous 8Mb of RAM, this is the first Palm to offer the Palm 3.5 operating system. The AvantGo browser software serves up sites specially sized for Palm users, while email and Internet access is fairly easy to set up – but check that your mobile is going to be compatible. A joy for both work and play.

HANDSPRING VISOR DELUXE

£199.99 *at* ***www.dixons.co.uk***

On the inside lives Palm OS software, so it can run existing Palm programs, but on the outside it's an iMac with its translucent coloured casing. What really makes the Visor special, however, are the Springboard expansion modules. A slot in the back can take a modem for surfing and email, or you could opt for extra memory, global positioning software, an MP3 player or software to turn your Visor into a universal remote control. Getting connected may take some detective work, but email is pretty easy to get up and running. Once you've mastered the onscreen graffiti, you'll be scrawling all sorts of notes and sending them off in no time at all.



MITSUBISHI TRIUM GEO

£49.99 *at*

www.carphonewarehouse.co.uk

A good entry into the WAP world at a fair price. It looks fairly cool, although up close the casing is a tad tacky; it has a marginally smaller screen than the others; and is heavier. Still, it's user-friendly and anyone with a bit of mobile phone know-how could get to a WAP site or start emailing without a glance at the manual. The only drawback is that it's locked into a BT Cellnet tariff, so you can't choose any other phone company.

NOKIA 7110 £99.99

at ***www.carphonewarehouse.co.uk***

Currently the most popular WAP phone, to the point where it's out of stock in many places. It might be slightly larger than your current mobile, but it's still a sleek and stylish bit of kit which shouldn't spoil the line of your jacket. It has an extra-large display, making reading emails and WAP pages a little easier, while the predictive text input feature is a godsend when tapping in messages using the keypad. And the memory works as both a phonebook and calendar, so now there's really no excuse for forgetting anything.

FOOTBALL FEVER!

Keep the Euro 2000 madness stoked with more great football giveaways from *the net*

Win a *Sporting Life* football Table

Win this fantastic *Sporting Life* Table football worth £1500, courtesy of sportinglife.com. This superb table is massive and will keep you out of mischief for hours, as well as giving you something to do between games in Euro 2000.

To enter: Visit our Web site at ***www.thenetnow.co.uk*** and follow the link on the table football competition page to the *Sporting Life* Web site.

Look at the player profiles in the Euro 2000 section of the site and tell us: **What is Michael Owen's date of birth?**
Then hop back to our site and email your answer to us.

sportinglife.com

Win limited edition England shirts

Thanks to Kitbag.com, the definitive Internet sports shop, we have 20 Euro 2000 England shirts to give away – ten in home colours and ten in the away strip.
And being a generous lot, we also have some kit for the girls: five England team sports dresses and five figure-hugging shirts.
TO ENTER Visit our Web site, ***www.thenetnow.co.uk***, follow the link to ***www.kitbag.com*** and find the answer to this question:
Which is the best-selling replica football shirt on the kitbag.com site?
Once you've found the answer, hotfoot it back to the competition page on our site and email the answer to us. Easy!

And for all you football widows...

If you can't face the thought of another night with football on every channel, don't despair! We have 10 gift certificates, worth £50 each, to give away from ***Amazon.co.uk***. So treat yourself to a top chick-flick from Amazon's huge range of DVDs and videos.
TO ENTER Visit our Web site, ***www.thenetnow.co.uk***, follow the link to Amazon's video and DVD store and find the answer to the following question:
What character did Harvey Keitel play in *Thelma & Louise*?
A. JD
B. Hal Slocum
C. Harlan Puckett
When you have the answer, head back to our competition page and email it to us, and you might just have something else to watch instead of football!

TERMS & CONDITIONS Closing date for entries to all of the above is 19 July, 2000. Entrants must be resident in the UK. The 41 prizewinners will be chosen from all the correct entries received by July 20, 2000. All prizewinners will be notified within two weeks of the draw by email to the address submitted with the competition entry on www.thenetnow.co.uk. Employees and their relatives of Kitbag.com, Amazon.co.uk and Haymarket Publishing are not eligible to enter. No cash alternatives or substitute prizes will be allowed. The competition organisers reserve the right to supply a prize of similar value and specification if the named prize is unavailable. The decision of the organisers is final and no further correspondence will be entered into. Information on the winner will be available within four weeks of the published closing date and will be supplied on receipt of a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

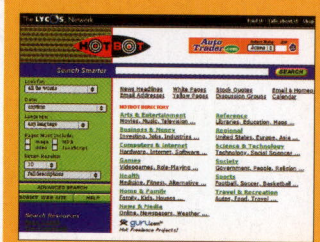
If Joan's lion didn't want to board, that was OK with everyone

THE LEADING SEARCH ENGINES AT A GLANCE

NAME	AltaVista (www.altavista.co.uk)	HotBot (www.hotbot.com)	Yahoo! (www.yahoo.co.uk)	Lycos (www.lycos.co.uk)	Excite (www.excite.co.uk)	Ask Jeeves (www.askjeeves.co.uk)	Google (www.google.com)	MSN Search (search.msn.co.uk)	Infoseek (infoseek.go.com)	Northern Light (www.northernlight.com)
Type	Index	Index	Directory	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index
UK version	✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✔	✔	✘
Pages indexed	250m	500m	500m*	50m	214m	6m**	200m***	not known	30m	150m
Simple search	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Default operator	OR	AND	n/a	OR	AND	n/a	AND	OR	OR	AND
Advanced search	✔	✔	n/a	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	AND or NOT	AND or NOT
Natural language	✘	✘	n/a	✔	✘	✔	✘	✘	✘	✘
Picture search	✔	✔	✘	✔	✘	✘	✘	✘	✔	✘
People search	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✔	✔	✘
Phrase search	✔	✔	n/a	✔	n	n/a	✔	✘	✔	✔
Personalise	✘	✘	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✘	✔	✘
Newsgroup search†	✔	✔	✘	✘	✔	✘	✘	✔	✔	✘
Translate	✔	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✔	✘
Family censor	✔	✘	✘	✔	✘	Jeeves for kids	✘	✘	✘	✘
WHAT'S ON THE SITE?										
Directory	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✔	✘
News	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✔	✔
Sport	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✔	✘
Entertainment	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✔	✘
Email	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✔	✘
Calendar	✘	✘	✔	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
Weather	✘	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✔	✘

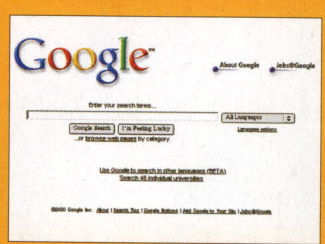
All statistics courtesy of Search Engine Watch (***www.searchenginewatch.com***)
*Directory is made up of 30m human-researched pages **This is the number of questions indexed in Jeeves' database
Claims an additional 100m through links on indexed pages †King of the newsgroup search engines is ***www.deja.com

OUR FAVOURITES



BEST FOR POWER
HOTBOT
www.hotbot.com
This American engine is based around Inktomi's huge 500m-page database, which means it's great for tracking down obscure sites. Advanced searching is available, too.

BEST FOR CATEGORIES
YAHOO!
www.yahoo.co.uk
The search pioneer has amassed a database of 30m human-reviewed pages, neatly sorted by category. It's particularly good for UK sites, as is ***www.excite.co.uk***.



BEST FOR SPEED
GOOGLE
www.google.com
This newcomer uses a novel technique: it ranks searches by the number of links a page has to it. That means the site you're looking for is invariably at the top of the list.

BEST FOR NEWBIES
ASK JEEVES
www.askjeeves.co.uk
Good for finding the answer to simple queries, and you can ask questions in plain English. Don't expect great results for anything too complicated, however.

so you can keep selecting from a branching menu going down through sports to watersports to pool sports, finally getting to that underwater hockey site you were after.

All well and good, but the size of the portals often means that a single word or phrase search returns thousands of pages of junk, in which that elusive underwater hockey page is buried amid thousands of amateur offerings from Dead Dog, Idaho (again). One way of whittling down the dead wood is to use what's known as a Meta engine (like ***www.webcrawler.com***) to poll a number of the big engines at once, returning a weighted result in which the key sites are more likely to be at the top. And despite our misgivings, if you're searching for a country-specific site then start by using a local search engine. For anyone in Britain that usually means going to a .co.uk version of a US engine, but anyone looking beyond these shores could try ***www.twics.com/~takakuwa/search/search.html***, which has links to engines from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

A single word returns thousands of pages of junk

We've pulled together information on 10 of the biggest and best-known search engines on the Net. Some, like Yahoo!, offer a whole range of additional services; others, like Google, are lean, keen search machines. Try a few out and get to know their idiosyncrasies.

However, if you're actually trying to find people, addresses or phone numbers, go straight to the specialist engines. Sadly these are still better on the States than this side of the pond, but for British phone numbers there's ***www.phonenetuk.bt.com***, while if you want to find that long-lost pen pal then tap the 90 million individual and 10 million business telephone numbers at ***www.***

WORDS: STEVE SHIPSIDE; PICTURES: PA, KOBAL COLLECTION

VADEM CLIO £955 *at www.vadem.com*

This is an odd addition to the market which, like the Cassiopeia, uses Windows Pocket software and an on-screen touch facility to find your way around. It looks and feels very good and its tilting monitor is perfect for presentation, while the large screen is very responsive to all instructions and makes Web pages look great.

However, the Clio falls between two stools – neither a true pocket PC nor a full-blown, fully-grown laptop. The built-in 56K modem and 32Mb of RAM simply add to that impression.

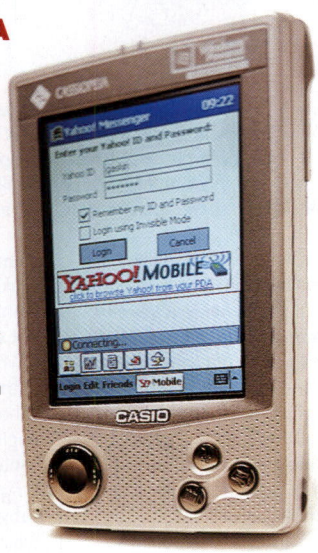
WAP OR HANDHELD?

If you need to do anything other than send and receive emails and check out local info and news while on the move, consider buying a handheld. You'll still need a mobile to get online (unless you shell out for a Clio), but much more of the Net will be available through their cut-down Web browsers.

CASIO CASSIOPEIA E-115 £435

at www.misco.co.uk

Featuring the Windows-powered Pocket PC system, this is a full-blown computer in a handheld case with a whopping 32Mb of RAM. This gives it terrific multi-media capabilities to play back video and MP3 files and room for all sorts of soft-ware. Net access is via Pocket Internet Explorer, and the high-resolution colour screen makes surfing a doddle. Do check its compatibility with your mobile, however, as some users may need an additional connection kit for getting fully online.

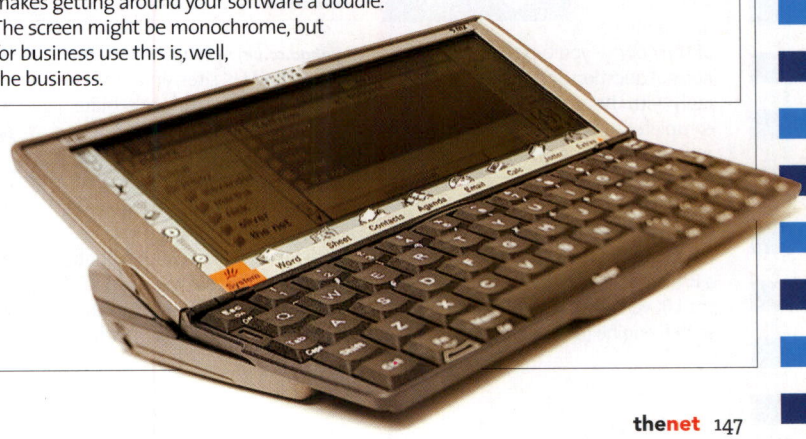


PSION 5MX £399.99 MODEM £179.99

at www.widget.co.uk

Email and a Web browser come as standard with the 5mx, but you'll have to buy an infrared travel modem if you want to use them. Also, at present it's only compatible with select Nokia and Ericsson mobiles, so don't rush out and buy one until you're sure you'll be able to connect. The big keys are a boon for typing and the touchscreen makes getting around your software a doddle.

The screen might be monochrome, but for business use this is, well, the business.



WORDS: VICTORIA WILLIAMS; PICTURES: NICK WRIGHT

Tame those search engines!

Find the information you're looking for with our guide to smarter searching

ACCORDING TO WEB CONSULTANCY Media Matrix, the average worker spends 73 minutes a month using search engines, second only to the 97 minutes spent at news, information and entertainment sites. Another survey found that 57 percent of Internet users search the Web each day, making it the second most 'popular' Internet activity after email. And searching is ranked as the most important online activity by Jupiter Research, whose respondents awarded it 9.1 out of 10.

Sadly, there is no research on what percentage of all that time is spent swearing at search engines for their deliberately perverse interpretation of your simple query. Sometimes it seems they have a mind of their own – you type in a perfectly normal question and they seem to reply with the answer to something completely different. Some of these mistakes can be avoided by following the hints and tricks to be found at the end of this piece, but others are simply inexplicable. Take, for example, when you want to find a British site. You wisely opt to use the UK version of a well-known search engine (***www.excite.co.uk***, say, or ***yahoo.co.uk***), tick the box to limit the search to UK sites, and sit back. Some of the time this works quite well, but on a bad day your UK preference is taken as some kind of instruction to go directly to all the home pages registered in Dead Dog, Idaho.

There is no research on time spent swearing at search engines

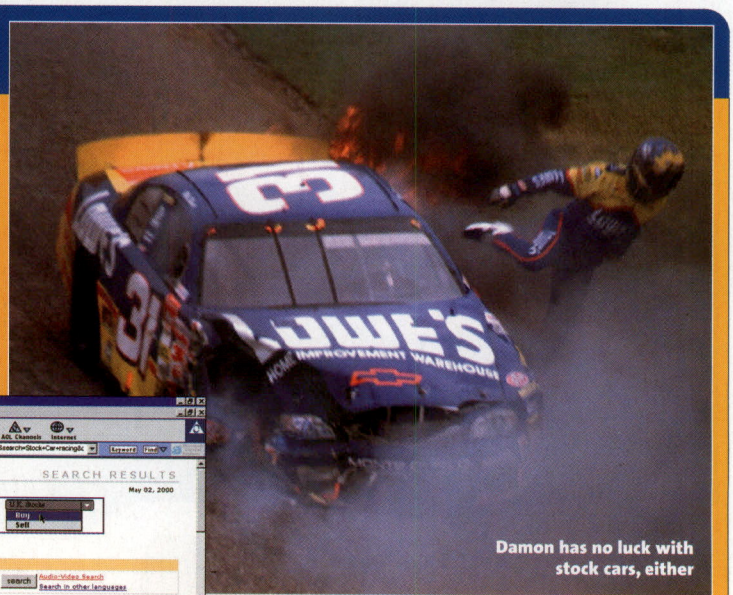
If you have any remaining doubts about the wilful and wayward nature of search engines then check out Satire Wire's 'interview' with Ask Jeeves. And yes, that really is the engine being interviewed, not a member of staff (***www.fnwire.com/features/satire-jeevesinterview.html***).

Part of the trick of taming search engines (and some of these things are barely housetrained) is learning that not all engines are created equal. There are literally thousands of search engines, from AltaVista to WebWombat, and while many do much the same job there are also countless specialists sites – worth making the acquaintance of if you want to get your info faster: check out ***www.searchenginewatch.com***.

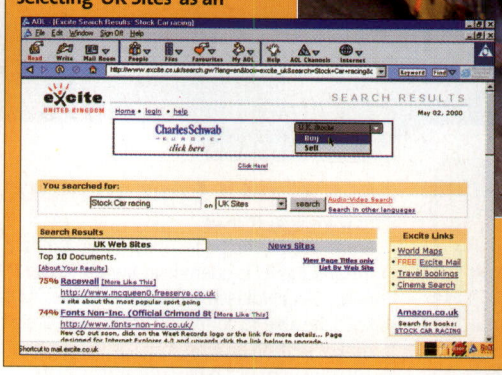
The engines most people start off with are the big portals – Lycos, Yahoo, Excite... Portals are search engines souped up with added content, and come into their own for general searches on popular subjects – like a type of sport. They typically use a 'drill down' approach,

CASE STUDY 1
SIMPLE SEARCHING

Excite is a familiar face and a good example of a search engine that has grown into a portal, acquiring all the usual goodies like news and email services on the way. In this case, we're looking for a fairly broad subject – British stock car racing. The search has been narrowed down by selecting 'UK Sites' as an option. Another option would be to enclose the three words in inverted commas so that they're recognised as a single phrase. Like most portals, Excite also lets you find this kind of material by drilling down through categories: 'sport', then 'motor sport', and so on.



Damon has no luck with stock cars, either



switchboard.com. Email addresses can also be found at the likes of ***www.bigfoot.com***, and people searches live at Lycos and Yahoo! (***www.whowhere.lycos.com*** and ***people.yahoo.com***).

If looking for advice, a plain English search is your best bet. Try Ask Jeeves (***www.ask.co.uk***), which allows you to type in those eternal posers like 'How do I tie a bow-tie?' or 'What's a mullet?' It will pull in some (almost) sensible answers culled from a variety of sites.

Some search engines only search for academia, others only for military hardware, so if your interest is fairly specific you might want to make friends with one that talks your language. In fact there are so many different types (take a peak at ***www.searchenginesgalore.com*** to get an idea) that the best thing to do is to start out by using search engines to find the engine you want to use. Using a thief to catch a thief is still the best way to do things – even in the digital world.

Start out by using search engines to find the engine you want

TIPS AND TRICKS

SPECIALISE

Use the engine best suited for your needs. A .co.uk version of a US parent engine is more likely to return useful local information, an academic engine will perform better academic searches, and so on.

PRE-SEARCH

Don't hesitate to use one search engine to find another. One way of doing that is to go straight to a Meta engine (like Webcrawler or Ask Jeeves) that polls a number of other engines before returning answers. letting you see which one came up with the most relevant answers.

BE SPECIFIC (1)

If there is an unusual proper noun that you can use to reference the material then you'll get less woolly results. 'Zatapek' will bring back information about Hungarian runners with more accuracy than either 'Hungarian' or 'runners'.

BE SPECIFIC (2)

If you have a date in mind, then put that in the search. If you know that the information you want is in a newsgroup then select an engine that limits its search to newsgroups alone – ***www.deja.com***, for example.

USE WILD CARDS

In some cases, an asterisk (just ask any old DOS die-hard) can come in handy. Searching for 'garden*' will look not just for 'garden', but also for 'gardens', 'gardeners', 'gardening', 'gardenia', etc.

USE CAPITALS

Most engines are case sensitive – so if you mean China the country, rather than china the crockery, then say so.

USE PUNCTUATION

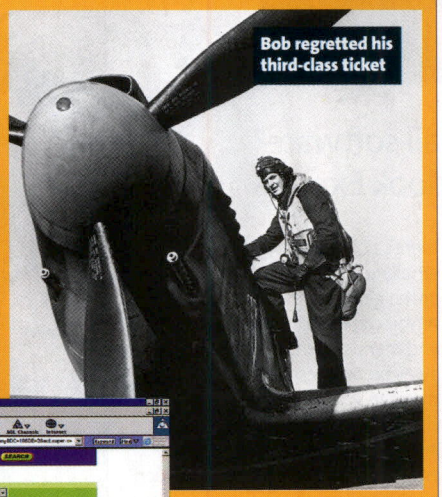
If what you're after is a phrase, then tell the engine so by enclosing the words in inverted commas. The words 'millennium' and 'dome' entered into an engine will pull up millions of references. 'millennium dome' is more likely to turn up pages on an expensive tent erected near Greenwich.

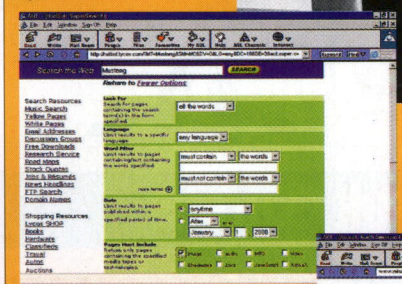
GET BOOLEAN

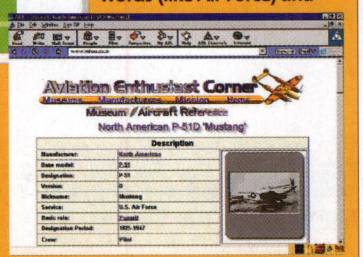
Almost all engines allow the use of these magic words – the 'operators' AND (also written as '+'), NOT ('-'), OR and NEAR. Some engines have them partly built in – Google (***www.google.com***) automatically inserts AND, while dropping common words not enclosed in inverted commas. For more information, check out the 'Default operator' line in our table opposite. AND makes an engine find text that includes all the words you are searching for; NOT lets you exclude terms – so that 'Paris NOT Texas' brings up the city of snails, not steers; OR looks for alternative terms; while NEAR ensures that the key words are found in the same paragraph rather than just on the same site.

CASE STUDY 2
COMPLEX SEARCHING

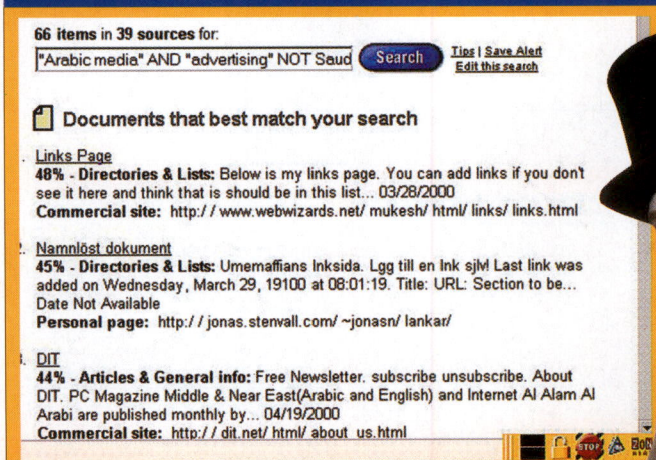
Here we're looking for specific information on a subject that has the potential for confusion. We want to find a graphic of the WWII fighter aircraft, the Mustang – but simply entering the word 'mustang' into a search engine brings up nothing but references to horses, cars, and sports teams. So we're narrowing down our search by using HotBot's facility to look for specific additional words (like Air Force) and rule out others (like horses).And, by clicking on the 'image' box the search will limit itself to sites that contain a picture of the plane. Alternatively, use an aviation-specific search engine like ***www.avsearch.org*** or ***www.air-seek.com***.



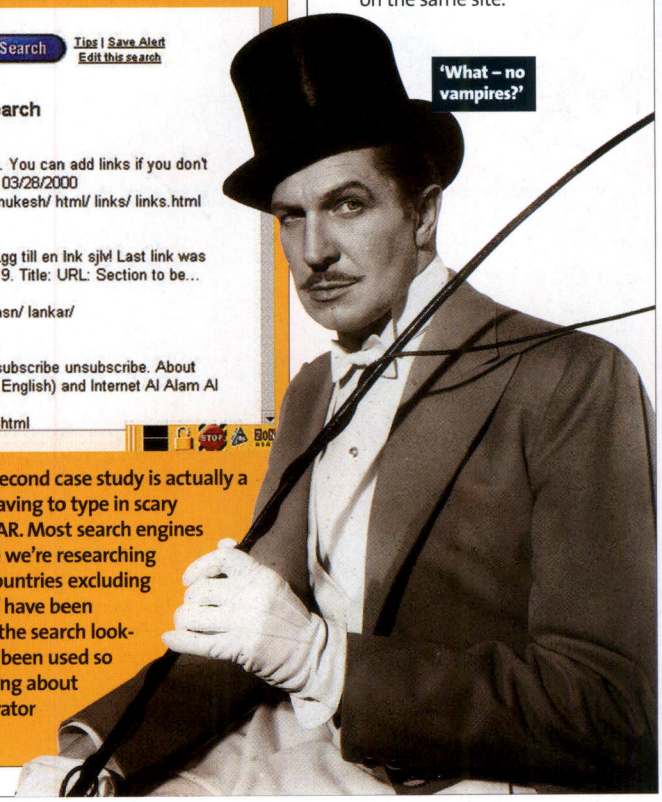




CASE STUDY 3
SEARCHING MASTERCLASS



The Mustang search example in the second case study is actually a Boolean search – but one without having to type in scary keywords such as AND, NOT and NEAR. Most search engines recognise these 'operators', however. Here we're researching Arabic media and advertising spend for countries excluding Saudi. To do that the words 'Arabic media' have been enclosed in inverted commas (to prevent the search looking for *any* media), the operator AND has been used so that the articles concerned are those talking about both media *and* advertising, and the operator NOT has been used to rule out Saudi.



Email

Still not set-up your email software? Follow our guide to Outlook Express

What is email?

Email is a way of sending messages around the Internet. While early programs could only handle plain text, most can now carry pictures and even video clips and sound.

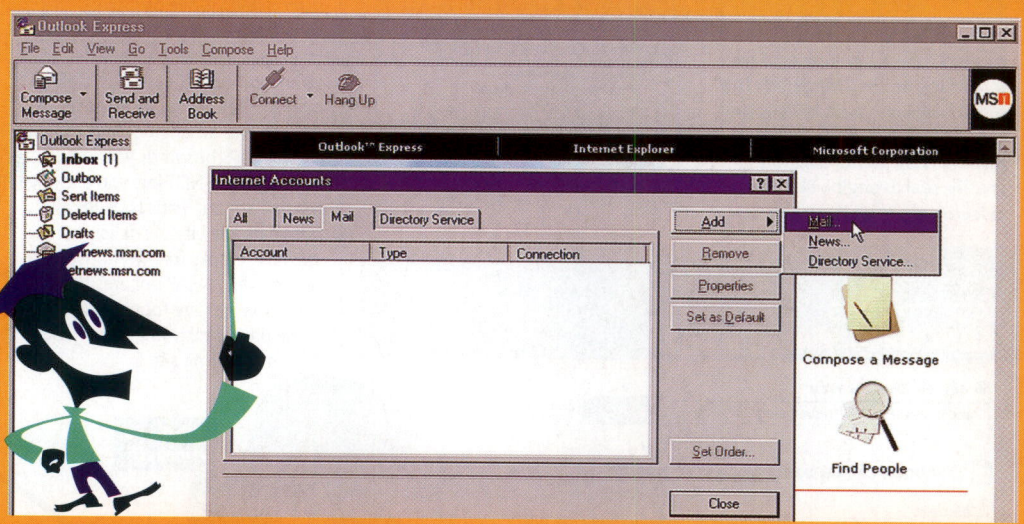
So why should I use it?

➤ It's a lot cheaper to email a friend than to phone them long distance.
➤ It's delivered almost instantly – there's no seven-day wait if you're emailing someone on the other side of the globe.
➤ You can keep in touch with family and friends, even while they're away on business or holidays – they can visit a cybercafé and check their mail from there.
➤ Many companies now rely on email as a means of communication because it's much faster and cheaper than ordinary or 'snail mail'.
➤ You can have information on your favourite subjects – whether it's fishing, the stock market, or a TV programme – delivered to your mailbox every day.

Okay, so how do I use it?

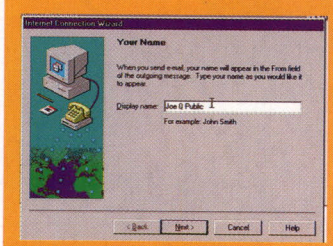
There are lots of email packages, but the one most widely used is Microsoft's Outlook Express. If you've bought a PC in the last two or three years, or you've downloaded Microsoft Internet Explorer for either Mac or PC, you'll already have Outlook Express installed. Our step-by-step guide shows you how to configure the program, create an email message, send it, and then read through the mail you've been sent.

1 Getting started with Outlook Express

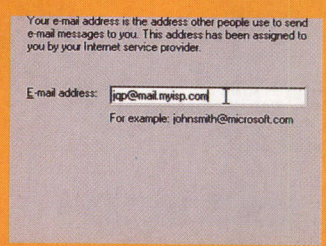


1 From the Start menu on your desktop, click Programs and then Outlook Express. If you are asked where you want it to store messages, select the pre-set or 'default' folder. The folder is kept in the Program Files folder on your hard drive.

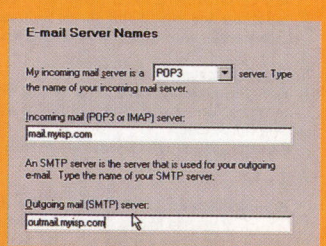
2 Once Outlook Express has loaded, go to the Accounts box from the Tools menu, and click the Mail tab shown in the picture on the left. This will show you any mail accounts you already have set up, and allows you to create a new one. For the purposes of this exercise we are going to create a new email account. Next, click Add, and select Mail.



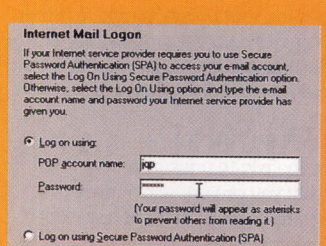
3 The Internet Connection Wizard will now guide you through the steps you need to take. First, enter your full name.



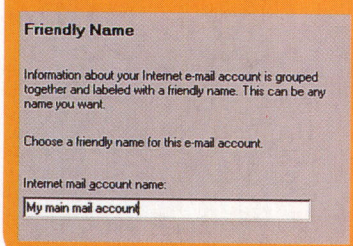
4 Type in your email address. This will have been given to you by your Internet service provider or ISP.



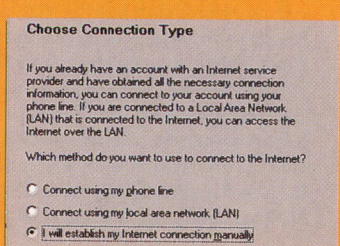
5 Enter the names of the email POP3/IMAP server in order to get incoming and outgoing mail. Call your ISP's helpline if you're unsure.



6 Type in your email address – just the part before the '@' sign – and your password. Again, your ISP should have given you these details.



7 Outlook Express asks for a 'friendly name' to give to your email account. We've called ours 'My main email account' for simplicity.



8 Outlook Express can automatically dial into your ISP for you, but it's probably best to connect manually. You can use Outlook offline, writing and managing your mail and then connect in order to send and receive messages. Choose the 'I will establish my Internet connection manually' option.

MORE EMAIL HELP AND ADVICE @ www.thenetnow.co.uk

- ★ Creating an email address book
- ★ Email etiquette
- ★ Filtering your email messages
- ★ Sending pictures and files via email

BEGINNER'S TIP

Add a 'signature' to your messages. A signature is like a calling card appended to the bottom of your email message. It might contain your email address, full name and phone number. To make one, go to the Tools menu in Outlook Express, choose Options and select Stationery and click on the Signature button. Type in the signature text you want to appear at the bottom of each message.

INTERMEDIATE TIP

Often, you'll want to pass a file to someone as part of your email message. This is known as 'attaching' the file, and is supported by most email packages. Remember that a large file will take longer to send. Compressing it using a shareware package like WinZip on the PC will shrink it, but the receiver the file will need a copy of the same program to re-expand it – so check before you send.

ADVANCED TIP

You can set up several different email accounts. Outlook Express will check each one for new mail when you go online. This is useful if you have separate work and personal email accounts. To add extra accounts, go to the Tools menu, select Options and click on New Account. Go through the 'Getting Started' steps again below, entering the new settings.

EMAIL OPTIONS If you don't want to use Outlook Express, try these alternatives for size

EUDORA LIGHT

www.eudora.com

A very popular, free email package. Includes lots of great features. Doesn't support reading news-groups, but copes happily with 'rich content email' – mail that includes sound, images and so on.

✔ **Lots of features**

✘ **None**

HOTMAIL

www.hotmail.com

A Web-based email program. Gives you a free email address, and can be accessed from any computer with a Web browser. Can also check email from a non-Web-based account.

✔ **Accessed from any computer**

✘ **You need to be online to read or compose mail**

EUDORA PRO 4.3

www.eudora.com

Commercial bigger brother to Eudora Light. Has all the features of Lite, but also allows you to check your mail from several different accounts easily.

✔ **Supports multiple mailboxes, spellchacker, email filtering**

✘ **It'll set you back nearly £30**

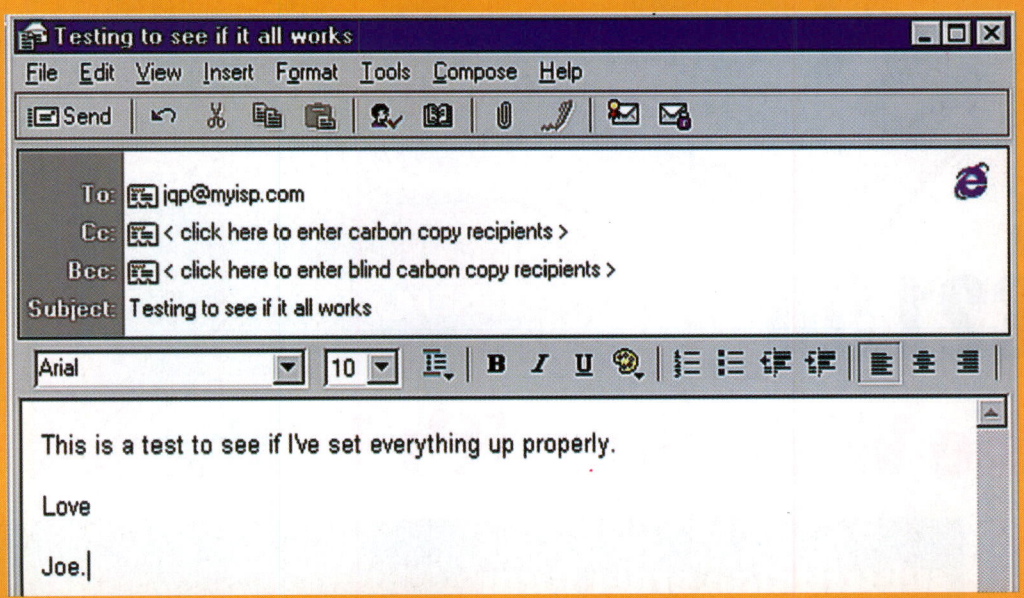
OUTLOOK 2000

www.microsoft.com Commercial bigger brother to Outlook Express. Includes an address book, to-do list and calendar, all of which link very elegantly in to the email section of the program.

✔ **Integrates well with address book, diary and scheduler**

✘ **It'll set you back around £125**

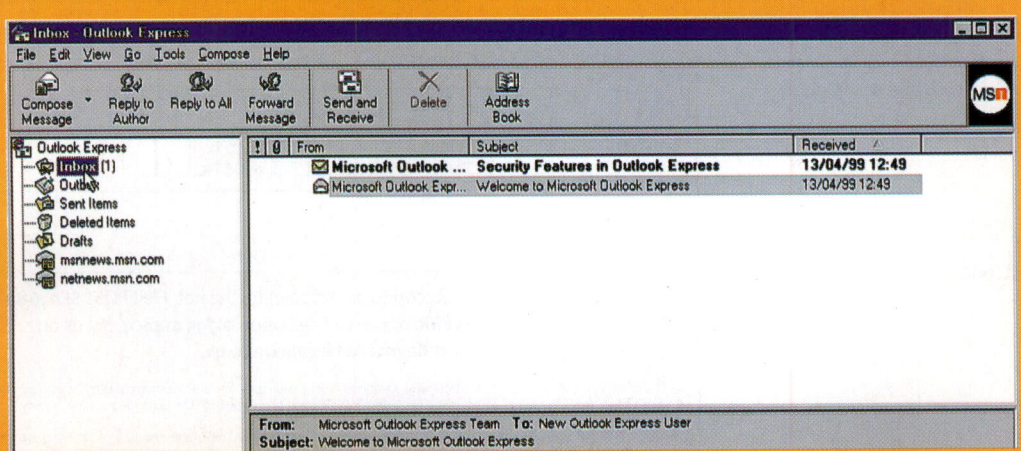
2 Composing your first email message



COMPOSING A MESSAGE

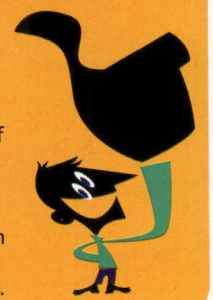
To create a message, click 'Compose Message'. If you click the small arrow just to the right, you will see that there are several pre-defined graphic message templates. But for now, just click on the button itself. Type your own email address in the 'To' field – you'll send an email to yourself to check that everything is working correctly. Enter a subject, for example 'Test Message', and in the body area just type a short message. From the File menu you can click Send to send your message now if you're online. Alternatively, if you're working offline click Send Later. This allows you to create more messages and have them ready for sending when you're ready to log on to the Net.

3 Sending, receiving & reading email



SENDING & RECEIVING MAIL

To send and receive mail, connect to the Net, then click the Send and Receive button. This will check for mail and download any new messages, at the same time sending any outgoing messages you have created. Once the program has stopped receiving mail, you can disconnect from the Net if you wish, to save phone costs. Click on In Box to the left of the screen to access the messages you have received. Click on the message to read its contents.



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- ★ Sending your first message
- ★ Newsgroup etiquette
- ★ Members-only bulletin boards
- ★ Web forums

Newsgroups

Whatever your pet subject, you'll find others on the Net ready to talk about it. Here's how to join up with them

What is a newsgroup?

Newsgroups are one of the older services on the Internet. Each group is like a bulletin board – anyone can post messages to different newsgroups, and anyone can read the postings. There are tens of thousands of different newsgroup subjects available, so there will be one that matches your interests – whether you're looking for info on beekeeping or book-keeping, computers or comics, sewing or sailing.

Why should I use newsgroups?

Although the Web has plenty of information on most subjects, newsgroups will often have more detailed answers to questions. If you have a specific question on a subject, you can have half a dozen responses in two hours.

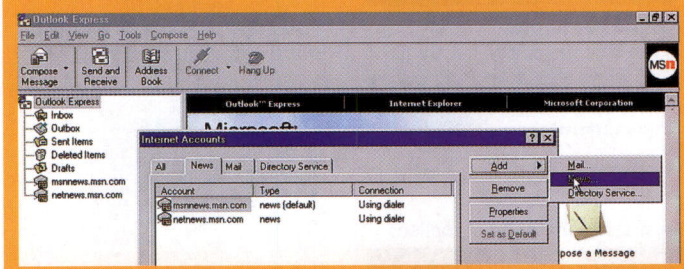
BEGINNER'S TIP

If you don't want to go to the bother of configuring Outlook Express or other newsgroup access software, visit DejaNews **www.deja.com** – a Web-based interface to newsgroups. You can read and send messages from here, all via your Web browser. Simple.

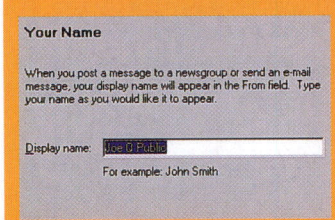
ADVANCED TIP

Your ISP will provide you with its own news server access. Mick's Place at **web.ukonline.co.uk/mick.s2/** has over 50 free access news server addresses. To add more servers to Outlook Express, go through the setting up steps outlined below.

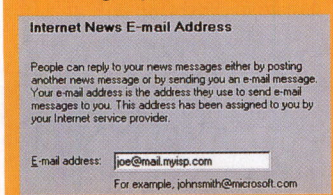
Accessing newsgroups using Outlook Express



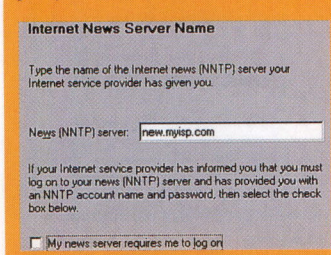
1 Go to the Accounts entry in the Tools menu, click on the News tab to list your current news accounts (if any), hit Add and choose News.



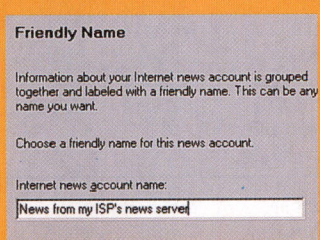
2 Type in your name. This will be displayed in any message you post to a newsgroup. Then hit Next.



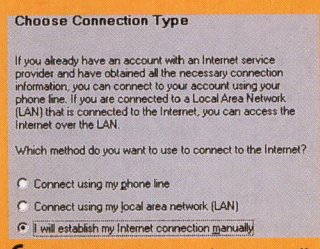
3 Type in your email address. This will be displayed in any message you post. Then click Next.



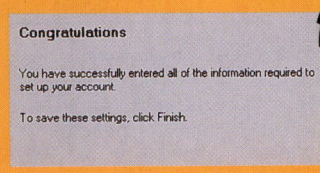
4 Enter the name of your ISP's server which should be given in your user documentation.



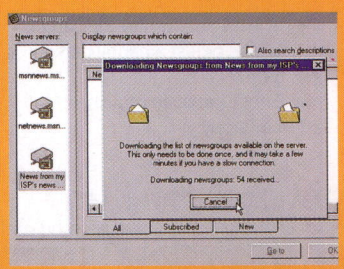
5 Give the news server a name that makes sense to you.



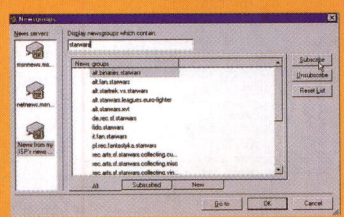
6 Tell Outlook Express that you will dial your ISP manually before you start reading news.



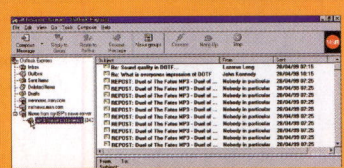
7 And you're done! You have now set up a newsgroup access account. Now let's see how to use it.



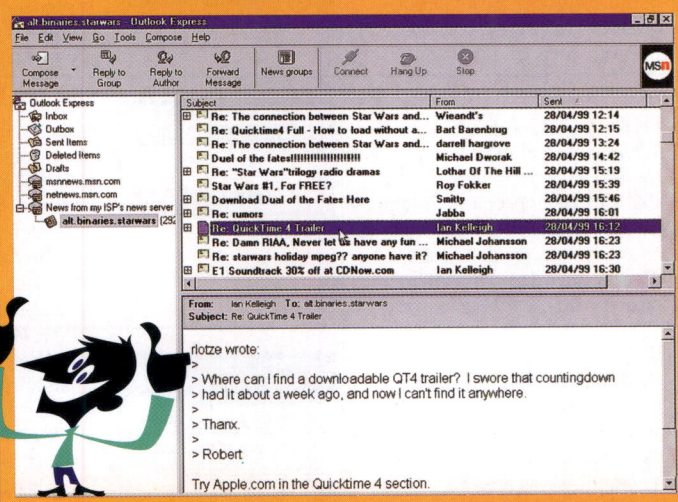
8 After hitting Close, you're asked if you want to download your ISP's list of newsgroups. When you click Yes, the list will be downloaded – so make sure you're online. This can take up to 10 minutes when you first connect to your news server because you are downloading the names of thousands of newsgroups.



9 Once all the newsgroups are downloaded, you can explore. If you want to find *Star Wars* postings, for example, type 'starwars' into the text field at the top of the window to display all newsgroups containing that word. You can subscribe to as many groups as you want.



10 To access a message inside a newsgroup, click on the subject header to read a summary. Double click the header and the whole message downloads, appearing on the lower half of the screen.



11 If there is a '+' sign by the message header this means there are replies to this message which you can also read. Click on the '+' sign to list the replies.

Online chat

Gagging to find someone who will chat to you online? Look no further than our guide to nattering on the Net

What is online chat?

Online chat lets you communicate with others – often in real time. In other words, you type in comments, send them over the Net and they're seen almost immediately. And you're only paying for a local phone call – even if the person you are 'talking' to happens to be on the other side of the world.

What does it let me do?

- 'Chat' with friends and relatives in other countries without running up massive phone bills.
- Join in an online discussion with an expert on your favourite subject.
- Ask a celebrity questions during a moderated 'conference'.
- Talk randomly to people on the other side of the world.

DON'T PULL THAT FACE ROUND HERE

'Smileys' are a way of including some indication of emotion in your messages. They are useful when, for example, you are making a joke and you want to be sure that the person at the other end of the line realises you're not serious. Hang a relevant smiley on the end of your sentence by typing in the relevant characters – but do try not to over-use these things. To 'read' them, just turn the page 90 degrees to the left ;-) OK? Here are the four most used smileys:

- :-) The original smiley. Indicates a joke, or just a happy person!
- ;-) Wink
- :-o Shock (an open mouth)
- :-(Unhappy

BEGINNER'S TIP

Don't register your details unless you really want to

Often chat software will ask you for your name, and sometimes other info. Be wary about giving this; you don't know what they'll be used for.

INTERMEDIATE TIP

Be careful out there

If you are looking for romance online, be careful. As you would with press ads, let someone know where you're going if you meet up.

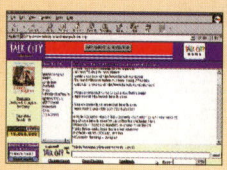
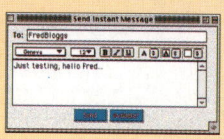
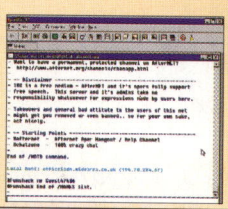
ADVANCED TIP

Go one step further

If text chat seems a bit flat, try 3D chat, where users take on a 'persona' and actually walk round chat rooms. Try ***www.thepalace.com*** for starters.

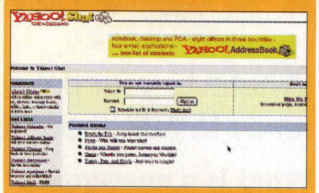
What kinds of Internet chat can I try?

There are several programs and methods for chatting online. It can get a bit confusing, so let's look at the main options

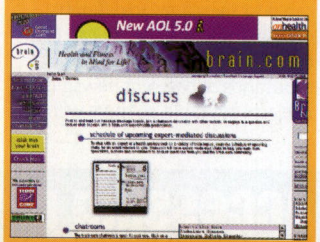
TYPE OF CHAT		FOR & AGAINST	CHAT LINK
LIVE ON A WEB SITE This kind of chat takes place within the window of your browser on a Web site. Everything you type in can immediately be seen by the other people viewing the Web page – and everything anyone else types in can be seen by you.		**FOR** Easy to use; no extra software required to run it. **AGAINST** Works on someone's Web site, so the subject will be dictated by them and private chat is unlikely.	***www.talkcity.com*** Online community where you can talk on various subjects, including romance and current affairs.
MODERATED SESSIONS Moderated chats are 'supervised' by a chat room host. In other words, you type in your message and a person sitting at the other end of the line decides whether or not to allow your comments or questions to be displayed. This is the norm for celebrity chats.		**FOR** Discussions are sensibly run. Plonkers may be screened out. **AGAINST** Only take place at certain times because they require a moderator to be present on the site. Censorship...	***chat.beeb.com*** The BBC's celebrity chat service with daily visits from the network's top stars.
REAL-TIME USING EXTRA SOFTWARE Software such as AOL's Instant Messenger and ICQ allow you to chat with other people in real time – either a group of people together, or one-on-one. You don't use a Web browser; dedicated software takes care of everything for you.		**FOR** Instant response; you can chat privately to one person. **AGAINST** Requires extra software; some firms don't allow this to be installed on their PCs, so you may not be able to chat at work.	***www.aol.co.uk/aim*** ***www.icq.com*** Chat one-to-one with your friends in real time on the Net. AOL's Instant Messenger and ICQ software are two of the most popular.
IRC This is Internet Relay Chat. It's a way of talking to many people at once using special software. IRC software can be a pain to use, however – it was, after all, modelled on Citizens' Band radio.		**FOR** Useful, technical chats are often held on IRC channels. **AGAINST** Software is difficult to use; IRC users can be impatient with newcomers.	***www.mirc.com*** Although it can be tricky to get used to, mIRC is the best software for IRC chat. ***www.ircle.com*** IRC client for Macs

CHAT ROOMS

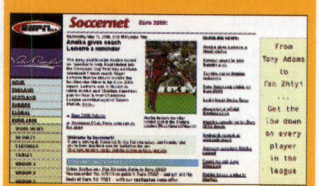
Want to have a natter about some of the subjects you've read about in *the net* this month? Try these



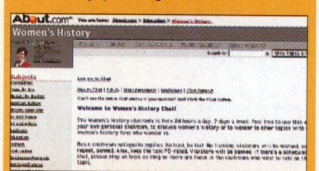
uk.chat.yahoo.com
Chat about anything that takes your fancy in Yahoo's chat rooms



www.brain.com/discuss/
Plenty of scope for 'My IQ's bigger than yours' discussions here

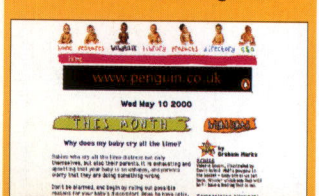


boards.go.com/cgi/soccernet/request.dll?LIST&room=EURO2000
Hopefully we won't be chatting about any penalty misses here



womenshistory.about.com/education/womenshistory/mpchat.htm
Chat about Marilyn and other female legends of our time

chat.sportsline.com/u/chat/chats/sampras/chat.cgi
Chat about – and to – big Pete



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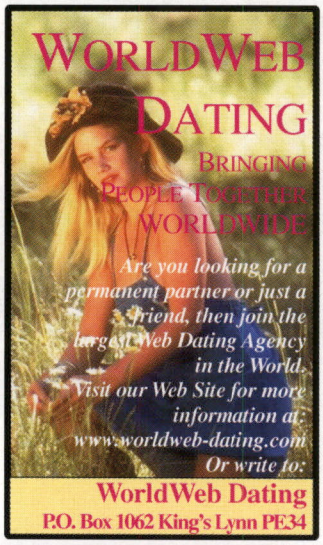

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JUDGE JULES

The dance music DJ lists his top sites and lets slip the truth about his legal moniker

When did you first discover the Internet and what do you use it for?
My computer was first hooked up to the Internet about two years ago. Initially I didn't use it to send and receive emails, just to browse the Web – mainly for travel sites, as I fly a lot, then to visit club sites and chat rooms. It was very revealing to read clubbers' comments about me – they weren't always positive!

What's the best thing about the Net?
Its simplicity and ease of use.

Your new site looks impressive. How long did it take to set up and how involved are you with what's on it?
The first version was set up by my Webmaster, Matt McNeil. Once that was in place, I did a lot to help refine its appearance and content, until it was ready to go online.

You're obviously keen on interacting with your fans by answering their emails – is that one of the main reasons you created the site?
It's very important not to consider yourself aloof. I've always been a clubber at heart, and it's great to get feedback about myself. Provided it's constructive, I try not to shy away from emails that say negative things. Just because I'm popular as a DJ doesn't mean there aren't still lessons to be learned.

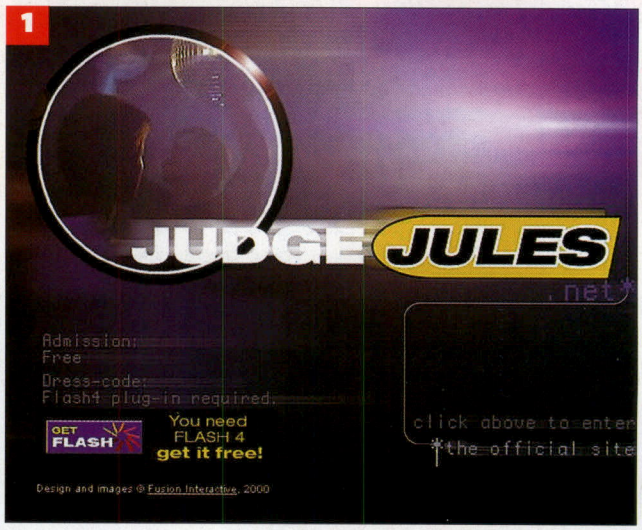
A few months ago, we interviewed MP3 DJ Richard Eden. Can you ever see a day when you ditch vinyl?
I'm not sure yet. I can certainly see the day when MP3 and vinyl co-exist. CDs never fully replaced vinyl, but the two often work together.

What effect has the Net had on the world of dance music?
The effect has been enormous. If I had to sum up the most significant thing, I believe it will be the way in which the Net, via Internet radio, finally breaks dance music in the US. America is the only nation in the developed world that hasn't been fully bitten by the dance music bug, largely due to lack of radio exposure. The Internet will change all this.

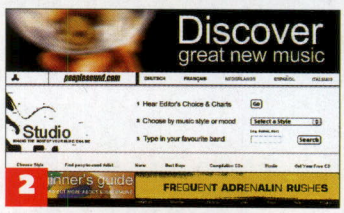
What do you think of live Webcasts? Will people really log on to hear what's happening in a club?
The better the sound quality and the range of live club options, the more significant this will become.

Finally, as both a Judge and a DJ, you should have some interesting things to say about the MP3 copyright debate. What are your thoughts?
I'm only called 'Judge' because I did a law degree! But to answer your question, the Internet raises a number of copyright issues – this is merely one of them. Music publishers, mechanical collection groups and the international performing rights collectors have been slow – almost naive. They need to resolve this before they get bogged down in an administrative nightmare.

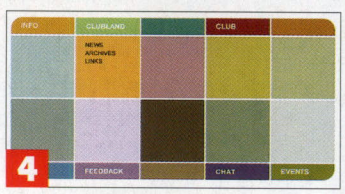
JULES' BEST OF THE WEB

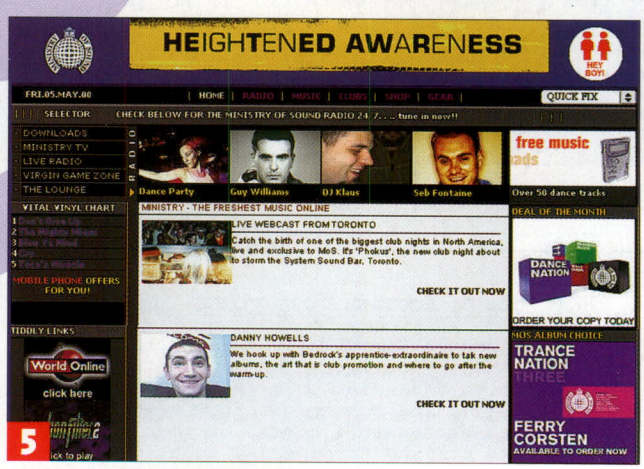


1 JUDGE JULES
www.JudgeJules.Net
I've been involved from the start in creating and designing the site, so have a vested interest in it. I've tried to keep it current, fresh and interesting with regular features of tours or nights that I've been involved with. Future plans involve some live streaming events, audio clips for my 'Top 10' section – with an archive so you can find those tracks you missed the first time round.



2 PEOPLESOUND
www.Peoplesound.com
I like this site due to the fact that it showcases new talent. It's basically an online A&R person (to be politically correct). I do some reviews each month for the site publicising the next generation of music producers. All you have to do is log on and see for yourself.





3 GATECRASHER 4 CREAM 5 M.O.S.
www.Gatecrasher.co.uk, www.Cream.co.uk, www.MinistryOfSound.com
These are my favourite three club sites. I also play at them on a regular basis and love every minute of every set I do. The clubbers really get into the nights – and there are some very interesting discussions in the chat rooms afterwards. So that's it. If you disagree with my top five, let me know at ***www.JudgeJules.Net***!

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